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The First Presidency: (left to right) Henry B. Eyring, Thomas S. Monson, Dieter F. Uchtdorf.



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# Arizona Saints recognize PRESIDENT MONSON'S *personal, caring touch*

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

**D**uring April 178<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference, Latter-days Saints around the globe joined in a solemn

assembly to sustain Thomas Spencer Monson as the 16th president of the Church, with Henry B. Eyring as First Counselor and Dieter F. Uchtdorf as

Second Counselor.

As Arizona Saints joined in the formal process of confirmation, many did so with fond memories of personal associations with the prophet.

Following President Gordon B. Hinckley's death on January 27, President Monson was called on February 4.

At age 22, President Monson had served as bishop of a large, inner-city ward in Salt Lake City, where he became well acquainted with the challenges encountered by the elderly and the poor. Eighty-five widows lived in the ward, and as a young bishop he visited each one regularly, making sure their spiritual and temporal needs were met.

At 32, he was called as president of the Canadian mission. He now has served as a General Authority of the Church, for 45 years, beginning in 1963, when, at age 36, President Monson became one of the youngest men to be called as an apostle.

For more than 20 years, since 1985, he has served as a counselor in the First Presidency, serving with Ezra Taft Benson, Howard W. Hunter, and Gordon B. Hinckley.

President Monson graduated cum laude from the University of Utah in 1948, earned an MBA from Brigham Young University, and has three additional honorary degrees. He received the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award, Silver Buffalo Award, and the international Scouting's highest award, the Bronze Wolf. He and his wife, Frances Beverly Johnson Monson, have three children.

Through those many years of Church service, President Monson has demonstrated dedicated leadership as the Church has grown to encompass the world and to include 13 million mem-

*Continued on pg. 6*

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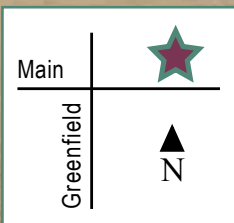
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**Arizona Saints Recognize President**  
**Continued from pg. 4**

bers. He is known, in particular, for his energy and ability to get things done and for his quick intellect and keen memory.

His talks are laced with poetry and quotes from literature, as well as inspiring stories of the experiences he's had in working with and serving the members of the Church.

One Arizona man says, "He has probably told my story 10 times, and it's actu-

ally in his book." Richard Casto, of the Ray 1<sup>st</sup> Ward in the Chandler Stake, is the "boy in the grease pit," President Monson talked about in a recent conference.

"He was my bishop at the time," says Brother Casto. "I was not going to Church, and, one Sunday, he left the assistant to the Priest quorum in charge and came to find me."

Richard, a fifth-generation member of the Church, was 17 at the time and working in a service station.

"It was a truck service station with a big, long grease pit," he says. "That's

where I was when he came. I heard somebody call my name, then say, 'I found you.' He walked down into the grease pit with his suit and tie and everything."

Brother Casto says, "He told me he missed me coming to church. I told him he had all sorts of other Priests there, but he told me he missed *me*."

Richard says, "I kind of committed, yeah, I'd go back to church. But, I just told him that to get rid of him really."

However, three days later, when Richard fell in the grease pit, he thought again about President Monson's visit.

"I didn't break any bones, but I hit hard and didn't have the strength to stand up," he says. "I thought, 'Maybe the Lord is trying to tell me something.'"

"After that, my life changed," he says. "That's always in the back of my mind because it changed my life."

Since then, Brother Casto has missed very few meetings. He served a mission to Mexico, met and was sealed in the temple to his wife, Nancy, and, together they have raised five children, all of whom have been to the temple. The Castos now have 17 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He has served as a bishop twice, in the stake high council for 10 years, as stake executive secretary, as a counselor in three different bishoprics and as Deacon's quorum advisor and Scoutmaster.

Brother Casto says, "I try to get a hold of President Monson twice a year. I thank him all the time for that one act. All the blessing I have received really go back to that."

Others in Arizona remember similar experiences as they have felt the caring, personal touch of President Monson's service and character.

Marsha Ward, of the Christopher Creek Branch, Payson Arizona Stake, recalls seeing President Monson in a casual setting when she was in Utah meeting with a group of other LDS women writers.

"In the middle of the meeting, the doorbell rang," Marsha recall, "and in walked President Thomas S. Monson of the First Presidency, wearing a yellow plaid shirt! I don't know if I was more startled by the fact that he had dropped in or by the sight of the informal clothing he wore. You don't see a General Authority dressed that way in Arizona."

Marsha continues, "When he learned that a number of writers were gathered in the living room, he came in and greeted us, then played a piece he learned in his youth on the piano. In a few minutes, he was gone. It turned out that the lady of the house is his secretary." Sister Ward treasures that brief encounter.

"Now that he is our prophet and leader, I look forward to sustaining him in his calling. However, I'll never forget that occasion and his warm joviality. I hold dear the recollection of grasping the hand of a kindly neighbor, Tom Monson."

Anna Arnett, of the El Dorado Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake, met President Monson in October 1987 when, she and her husband Charles were called to the Sydney Australia mission, and Charles was set apart by President Monson to be a sealer in the Australia Temple. With the recent passing of her husband, this experience has become an even more precious memory.

She says, "One by one, [President Monson] bestowed the sealing power upon Charles and the other brethren. He probably had already performed this ordination scores, if not hundreds, of times, but he made it seem very special," Anna says. "I do remember the feeling of comfort, and ease to offset the awe. You can't be with that man without feeling love."

For more about President Monson's life and to hear his recent conference address as well as other talks he has given, visit [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org)



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President

# THOMAS S. MONSON:

## *On the Lord's Errand*



The members of the First Presidency, President Thomas S. Monson, President Henry B. Eyring and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, have been in their current leadership positions since 3 February.

On any given day at a handful of nursing homes in Salt Lake City a buoyant yet distinguished gentleman can be seen talking, laughing and listening to the residents. Despite his heavy load of religious assignments, Thomas S. Monson, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is the self-appointed chaplain for these facilities.

Fellow Church leader President Boyd K. Packer said, "He visits them anytime his busy schedule permits, and sometimes even when it doesn't permit."

President Monson's love for the elderly can be traced to his earliest positions in the Church. He was assigned to be a bishop in Salt Lake City when he was just 22 years old. His lay ministry included responsibilities for over 1,000 members — 85 of them widows — and the largest welfare load in the Church.

President Monson remembers one particular year when a drought caused

a severe shortage of food for the needy, especially fresh fruit. He offered a sacred prayer one night late at the meetinghouse asking the Lord for help. "I pleaded that these widows were the finest women I knew, that their needs were simple and conservative and that they had no resources on which they might rely."

The next morning, President Monson said, he received a call from a man in the congregation who owned a large wholesale produce company. "Bishop," he said, "I'd like to send a semi-trailer filled with oranges, grapefruits and bananas to the Church for those who would otherwise go without. Could you make arrangements?"

President Monson not only provided physically for the needy in his congregation, but he also forged lasting friendships. He took a week of his personal vacation time each Christmas season to

*Continued on pg. 8*

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**President Thomas S. Monson**  
Continued from pg. 7

visit every single one of the widows in his congregation. For the first several years he took them a dressed chicken from his own poultry coops as a gift.

These visits continued decades after President Monson was given other Church assignments for as long as each of the 85 widows lived. Fellow Church leader Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said, "Perhaps no one in the present leadership of the Church has spoken at so many funerals — he once had three in one day — and always very personal remarks are given for the sometimes ordinary and otherwise unknown souls that he has met and loved during his ministry."

President Monson also has a gift for reaching out to the youth in the Church and has served for nearly three decades on the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. Former Chief Scout Executive Jere Ratcliffe said, "I don't know any person about whom I could say more good things than I can say about Tom Monson. For me Tom personifies 'enthusiasm' in its original meaning, 'God within' or literally 'inspired.' He lights up every meeting he is in. The LDS Church is blessed to have such a leader of youth."

Perhaps President Monson's example of how to minister to others came from his childhood. He was born on 21 August 1927 in Salt Lake City to G. Spencer and Gladys Condie Monson, who were of hardy Swedish, English and Scottish ancestry.

He describes his childhood as idyllic with hours spent fishing and exploring the surrounding valleys. "Ours was a close-knit family," President Monson said. "We gained a sense of appreciation and love for our relatives, because all of us lived together on one corner on Salt Lake's west side."

President Monson vividly recalls riding in his family's 1928 Oldsmobile many Sundays with his father to the home of his father's Uncle Elias. "I would wait in the car while Dad went inside. Soon he would emerge from the house, carrying his crippled uncle in his arms like a china doll. I would open the door and watch how tenderly my father would place Uncle Elias in the front seat and wrap a blanket around his legs. Then we would take him for a ride around the city. Dad never wanted any thanks for this service, but his lesson was not lost on me."

In fact, this was a lesson that was soon replicated. During the Depression years, the Monson family lived frugally with few if any luxuries. When young Tom learned a family of one of his friends planned to eat cereal moistened with hot water for Christmas dinner, he invited his friend to his backyard. He then took his two pet rabbits out of their hutch and gave them to his friend for Christmas dinner for his family.

After graduating from high school, President Monson enrolled as a freshman at the University of Utah but soon shipped out for basic training in San Diego as a member of the United States Navy Reserve. When the war ended in



President Monson with his wife Frances and their three children, Tom, Ann, and Clark.

1946, he returned home, graduating two years later with honors from the University of Utah with a degree in business.

It was at a university dance that he first saw the young lady who would later become his wife — Frances Johnson. At the end of their courtship, President Mon-

son said he had planned a special evening to propose to Frances, but his youngest brother, Scott, spoiled the surprise by blurting out, "Tommy has a ring for you, Frances!" the moment she entered the

Continued on pg. 9

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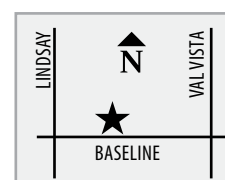
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door. Despite the unusual proposal, Tom and Frances were married in the Salt Lake Temple on 7 October 1948.

"From the first day of our marriage, Tom has served in leadership positions. Some have asked how a new bride adjusts to that, but it has never been a sacrifice to see my husband doing the Lord's work," Frances said. "It has blessed me, and it has blessed our children. He always knew that if it was for the Church, I expected him to do what he had to do."

Her shared commitment to serving in the Church is something President Monson values. "In 59 years of marriage I have never known Frances to complain once of my Church responsibilities. In those 59 years I have been gone many days and many nights, and I have rarely been able to sit with her in the congregation. But there is no one like her — absolutely no one. She is in every way supportive and is a woman of quiet and profoundly powerful faith."

This mutual commitment to Church service was tested again and again as President Monson was called to numerous lay leadership positions and asked to take a leave of absence from his executive position at the *Deseret News* to move his family to Toronto, Canada, where he served as the president of the Canadian Mission for three years.

Upon returning home, President Monson participated in a variety of Church committees but was unprepared when Church President David O. McKay asked him to be one of 12 modern-day apostles who help govern The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After sharing the news with Frances, President Monson recalls, "that night neither of us slept very well. My feet were like ice." In what he would later describe as one of the most dramatic days of his life, President Monson was ordained an apostle on 4 October 1963. He was 36 years old.

Twenty-two years later he would find himself serving in the First Presidency, the highest governing body of the Church. He served in the First Presidency for over two decades as a counselor to three Church presidents.

Although President Monson had heavy responsibilities and demands on



President Thomas S. Monson as a child.

his time, Frances said he considered his highest priority to be that of husband and father. In fact, he often shared his spiritual experiences with his children. Daughter Ann said some of her fondest memories came from "hearing him tell of the special inspiration he had in calling a patriarch or of the faith-promoting experiences he had interviewing missionaries."

His son Thomas said, "Every night before I went to bed, I would go upstairs to his office, and whatever he was doing, he would put aside, and he would play me a game of checkers. That is one of the sweetest memories I have of my father."

Clark Monson also recalls teaching moments with his father. "Dad and I were out fishing on a boat, and he asked me to reel in my line for a moment. When our lines were in and the rods set aside, Dad said, 'In about five minutes your brother Tom will be sitting down to take the bar exam. He's worked hard through three years of law school for this and he's probably a little apprehensive. Let's just kneel here in the boat. I'll offer a prayer for him, and then you offer one.' That was one of the greatest experiences of my life."

In the midst of visits with widows, playing checkers with his son or attending to worldwide needs of members of the Church, President Monson has always been "on the Lord's errand" (Doctrine and Covenants 64:29).

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# NEW APOSTLE

## and dozens of new leaders named at April General Conference

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

In a solemn assembly during the Saturday morning session of the 178<sup>th</sup> Annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Thomas S. Monson was sustained as prophet, seer and revelator and president of the Church; Henry B. Eyring as first counselor and Dieter F. Uchtdorf as second counselor.

In addition, Elder D. Todd Christofferson was added as the newest member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and fifteen new general authorities were called to serve in the First and Second Quorum of the Seventy, including Elder James J. Hamula, who had been serving as a member of the Sixth Quorum of Seventy in the North America Southwest

Area, which includes Arizona. Elder Hamula has worked as an attorney at an Arizona law firm.

Also sustained were 38 new Area Seventies and a new Young Women general presidency, with Elaine Dalton as president, Mary N. Cook as first counselor and Ann M. Dibb as second counselor.

In a press conference on Saturday afternoon, Elder Christofferson said initial reaction to the call to serve as an Apostle was a "degree of incredulity" immediately followed by, "a deep sense of humility, and, at the same time, a sense of gratitude for the trust that is manifest in such a calling."

Elder Christofferson, who was serving as a member of the Presidency of the

Seventy with supervisory responsibility for the North America Northwest and North America West Areas. He previously had supervisory responsibility for the North America Southeast Area and has served as Executive Director of the Family and Church History Department.

Born in Pleasant Grove, he graduated from high school in New Jersey, earned a bachelor's degree from BYU and a law degree from Duke University and practiced law in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Katherine, live in Sandy, Utah. They have five children.

He says President Monson extended the call to serve in a "very kind" and "very thoughtful, tender" way.

"It is special to me that the call came through him," Elder Christofferson said.

When asked why, in a growing, global church, a non-American wasn't called, he responded, "It's a question of time;" and added, "Remember, though, that we are not called to represent any place, any group, any religion. We don't need to try to tell the Lord about his sheep and how to take care of them. He knows them better than we do."

Elder Christofferson spoke of his youth and the years he spent in New Jersey. He said, "[There] my faith was challenged and confirmed. It forced me to think deeply about what I believe."

He said his time in Washington, D.C., gave him an opportunity to work with government leaders and found it to be, "a blessing to associate with people of good



Photo by Cecily Markland

Elder D. Todd Christofferson, with his wife Katherine, greet the media at a press conference following the Saturday morning session of April's General Conference, at which Elder Christofferson was sustained as the newest member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

will of any faith" and encouraged members of the Church to "take full advantage of privilege that is ours to be among our fellow man and enjoy the brotherhood of the children of God."

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## STAKE PROVIDES

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# WORLD

By Julia Griffin  
The Beehive

For the stake Relief Society enrichment meeting in February, members from the Gilbert Stapley Stake participated in an outpouring of humanitarian service, finishing projects to benefit several different organizations in various parts of the world.

One of the efforts benefited the United Food Bank of Mesa and involved more than 50 young single adult men and women from the stake's Pioneer Ward, who picked citrus from the yards of two nonmember families.

"It was marvelous to see such a super turnout from the young adults," said Stake President Tim Hall.

The fruit was delivered to the food bank, where other stake members participated in sorting and packing food for the needy.

"The sorted food from all the food drives as well as the picked citrus will be used locally as well as traded to other states for additional commodities," stated Beverly Lowe of Neely Ward.

"Women who couldn't go to the Food



Photo by Alisha Hoffman

For a recent stake Relief Society enrichment meeting, the Gilbert Stapley Stake participated in several humanitarian service projects, including sorting food at the United Food Bank of Mesa.

Bank or pick citrus were provided opportunities to give other humanitarian service," said Stake Relief Society President LeaAnn Walker, of the Neely Ward.

Several sisters worked to pack clothing, baby items, and hygiene products in canning jars and boxes to be shipped to Cambote, HueHuetanango, Guatemala, where a nonprofit organization, called Casa La Cuna, or "House of Cradles," is building an orphanage by that same name. Casa La Cuna will use the donated items for the 42 children, ages 0 to 3,

that it will house. The canning jars will enable Guatemalan women to can their harvested crops.

"It was an amazing experience to see so many women working together to help the orphaned children," says Juleene Farr, of the Islands Ward. Sister Farr assists Casa La Cuna founders Enrique and Bonnie Recinos and others who are dedicating care and resources necessary to help the abandoned, abused and underprivileged children so they can have a safe haven and a bright future.

"Otherwise these children would die or be on the streets," says Wendy La Parra, of Cooper Ward.

In addition to the work done for the orphanage, the stake also completed 21 tied quilts for the Church Humanitarian Center. Also, several sisters participated in helping alter white shirts for missionaries in Ecuador as part of an ongoing effort spearheaded by Lorin Hatch of the Islands Ward to provide new or slightly used suits, shirts, ties and shoes to missionaries who need them throughout the world.

"The general willingness to serve was impressive," remarked Sister Walker, "and the service performed provided valuable help for organizations that could really use it."

President Hall agreed, adding, "I was touched by the good we have done for others and how the lives of people are touched by all the service given."

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## Benson woman named Arizona's *Mother of the Year*

By Lynn Johnson  
The Beehive

For over 60 years, American Mothers, Inc.® has annually honored one of Arizona's outstanding mothers. This year's Arizona Mother of the Year™ is Louise F. Larson of Benson.

A lively 87-year-old who hauls her own firewood and is a respected historian and author, Mrs. Benson is mother to nine, grandmother to forty-five, great-grandmother to 101, and has one great-great-grandchild. She mows her own lawn, but doesn't understand why that's such a big deal. "It's a riding mower," she notes, with a twinkle.

Louise is a native of Arizona and was born in Pomerene, Arizona on May 21, 1921, the seventh of fourteen children. She married her high school sweetheart, Thurber Larson in 1937. Her husband was sent to the Japanese front during World War II, leaving her with their young son, and another baby on the way. She ran the farm of 250 turkeys, 3,000 chickens, milk cows and fields. Every day she wrote a letter to her husband in Japan. She had no electricity or an inside bathroom.

Her children remember her reading to them, working side by side with them on the farm, and playing games and learning about their family history. They learned valuable life skills—budgeting money, sewing their clothes, making bread and butter, quilting and canning, even making wedding cakes. Daughter, Sherri Bernal, also of Benson, remembers "When I was four years old, my kitten chewed holes in my favorite pants, so I threaded a needle and sewed them up—something I had learned from my mother."

Her mother laughs and recalls, "It was a crazy color of thread—but she did it!"

A genealogist since fourteen, Louise was honored as "Guardian of History"

by the Cochise County Historical Society and has authored two books on the history of her homeland in Southern Arizona. She worked in the Benson School District for fifteen years and has served in numerous historical and non-profit organizations.

A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mrs. Larson has served in numerous positions and was the first Den Mother in her community.

Louise says her greatest joy comes from enjoying their large family. "Moth-

erhood is the noblest calling in life.

Losing three of my children in accidental deaths very early in married life brought me much sadness and heartache. However, these experiences helped me to hold my children dear to my heart and strive to be a better mother.

Mrs. Larson will represent the State of Arizona at the American Mothers Inc. National Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska April 23-26, 2008. She will also participate in parades throughout the state, including Prescott, Snowflake,



Louise F. Larson was recently named Arizona's Mother of the Year.

and Mesa. She is available for special events or to speak to religious and community groups. She can be reached at 520-586-2964, or you may contact Arizona AMI President, Lynn Johnson at 480-496-6852.



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## With *three* serving missions, family experiences blessings in *triplicate*

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

If blessings come when one family member is serving in the mission field, then blessings should be coming in triplicate for the Lance and Valerie Ipson family of the Ellsworth Ward, Skyline Stake.

Valerie says, just sitting at her computer or getting the mail each day is an adventure to see if there's a letter from their daughter, Landi, serving in the Kaohsiung Taiwan Mission. Or, their son, Jarom, a missionary in Vista del Mar Chile. Or, their son, Justin, serving in the Italy Catania Mission.

In February, Landi reached her one-year mark in the mission field. Jarom, who turned 24 while in the MTC and, Justin, just barely 19 at the time, left on

the same day in August 2007.

"It is very exciting...to be in the unique circumstance to have three children serving on three different continents, learning three different languages at the same time," says Lance, who is currently serving as bishop.

Valerie agrees, saying, "With our daughter, I never expected she wanted to serve a mission. She had done so many things, but had never really expressed an interest in a mission."

She had gone to China twice and Russia once with International Language Programs (ILP) to help children learn English. She was working on a college degree, then, one summer went to Ohio.

"She nannied for LDS parents, and

both had served missions," Valerie says, "and there was a small group of young adults there. Several had served missions. Something happened when she was surrounded with so much talk of missions," Valerie says, adding that once her daughter decided to go, "From that moment, she was so set. It was wonderful to see."

She says wonderful things continued to happen.

Soon after Landi left, "The boys both put their papers in the same week," Valerie says, adding, "We were so happy that Jarom decided to go."

Jarom, the Ipson's oldest, was living in an apartment and had started medical school at ASU. "He had even stopped going to church for a period of time," Val-

erie says. Concerned about his choices, "I made the decision five years ago to pray every day for that son. My husband, as well, prayed for him."

Valerie says prayer, along with good friends and roommates, made a difference in Jarom's life. He returned to church activity and made preparations to serve a mission.

When his grandmother asked him why, at 24, he had decided to go, Jarom replied, "Because I have to. When the Holy Ghost tells you what you have to do, you have to do it."

Justin, on the other hand, made the decision and submitted his mission papers even before his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"We made sure he knew we were equally as pleased and proud of him as we were about Jarom," Valerie says. "Justin could have put it off, but he didn't, and I think his talking about it and getting his papers in also helped our older son."

"It was an exciting time, a really amazing time; and for them to actually receive calls on the very same day was unbelievable," she says.

Sister Ipson has seen positive changes in their missionary children and says, those on the homefront also felt the excitement and the blessings.

Bishop Ipson says, "Many people would think it would be an overwhelming task of being able to provide the \$400/month for each one, but that has been the easy part. Each missionary contributed a significant amount, family members and other ward members have been anxious to contribute, and I have been blessed to receive increases in my own salary."

"We're truly blessed," Valerie says.



Photo courtesy of the Ipson Family

Three members of the Lance and Valerie Ipson family are serving missions at the same time. Shown above is the Ipson family, front row: (l to r) Kristen; Landi, who is serving in Kaohsiung Taiwan; Kylie; Kara; and Megan; and back row, Jarom, who is serving in Vista del Mar Chile; Lance; Valerie; Justin, who is serving in the Italy Catania Mission; and Jordan.

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# Newlyweds called as new Directors of Mesa Temple Visitors' Center

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

It was nine degrees below zero in their hometown of Logan, Utah, when Lee Hall Burke, 67, and his wife, Diann, arrived in Arizona where they will serve as directors of the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center for two years.

Yet, they say, dramatic change is something they have become familiar with over the past several months.

The Burkes are newlyweds, married just two years ago. Elder Burke had never been married when he met Diann, who was divorced and had been raising her three daughters as a single parent for 12 years.

Elder Burke is from Logan and received two degrees from Utah State University, before moving to Washington, D.C., where he earned his doctorate and worked in the Department of State for seven years. He was there, serving in a bishopric at the time the Washington D.C. Temple was built.

He returned to Logan to work at Utah State as Assistant to the President, Government Relations and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. He served in this capacity for 30 years under five different university presidents.

Elder Burke says he always wanted to be married, "at times feeling intense pressure and even becoming physically ill, I felt that so deeply and wanted to be married and wasn't." Then, Elder Burke explains, one day "a nice looking, sharp girl came into my office and began to interview me."

Though no stranger to interviews, he quickly realized something was different about this one. Finally, he asked the young woman what the interview was about.

"She said, 'I have a single mother and I want to find out if you're good enough to go with her.'"

That was the beginning of what he says has been a "great life together already, with a lot of things packed into a short period."

"We've covered a lot of ground since we've been married," he says, traveling from San Francisco, to Italy to the Mid East and to early Church history sites.

Other changes came as Elder Burke was called to serve as bishop of a Utah State University Singles Ward in January 2007. Then, just seven months later, "We were called to this position...I retired in November; and, we came to Arizona in January."

"I had been a bishop just seven months, so this call came as a complete surprise," Elder Burke says, adding, "Sister Burke and I have felt very inadequate, but we're trying to do our best and we know for some reason Heavenly Father wants us here. We'll just do our best and bring what we can to this Visitors' Center."

Elder and Sister Burke feel, "It's important to get acquainted, to meet people and let them know who we are; so, we plan to go to a different ward every Sunday to introduce ourselves and get acquainted."

The Burkes have already spoken at two stake conferences and at a recent singles fireside, where Sister Burke said, "Often we fail to see that the kingdom of God is within us. We must find ourselves in the work of the Lord."

Referring to one of her favorite songs, "Climb Every Mountain," Sister Burke encouraged the singles to, "Prepare to be the best you can be."

To Latter-day Saints in Arizona, Elder Burke says, "We want to invite everyone to come to the Visitors' Center. Bring your friends and introduce them to the gospel and enjoy the exhibits that portray



Photo by Gregg Wixom

Lee Hall Burke and his wife, Diann, are the new directors at the Mesa Arizona Temple Visitors' Center.

the Savior and his life and God's plan for families." He adds, "There are lots of

films available for families and groups."

In particular, people should be aware that, although Church officials asked that the documentary accompanying the Reflections of Christ exhibit no longer be shown, the exhibit itself is still open, with 25 photographs depicting the life, death, and resurrection of the Savior by professional photographer Mark Mabry, Jr.

"It's a beautiful, beautiful depiction of the Savior. It's going to help a lot of people to come closer to Christ," Elder Burke says.

He adds, "The Visitors' Center is a beautiful, peaceful place, with the gardens and grounds and so near the temple. How could you find a better place?"

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# Charles Arnett: AMERICAN HERO Laid to Rest

By Stephanie Abney  
The Beehive

**A** hero is defined as a protector, defender and a guardian. Lt. Col. Charles W. Arnett (Ret) was all of these to his wife of nearly 63 years and to their seven children. His burial at Phoenix Memorial Cemetery included full military honors, reserved for a select few, and a documentary of his life spoke of the heroic way he served his country and lived his life for 88 years.

On March 24, a hero was laid to rest. That evening, 400 people filled a Mesa theater to watch Mark Arnett's documentary, "Baby Boomerang," in which, Mark, a Baby Boomer, views the "greatest generation" by highlighting the life of his father, who piloted a B-24 named Boomerang. In 1944, as a 2nd Lt., Arnett and his crew were shot down, captured and held as POWs for a year before being liberated.

Just days after his return, Charles



Photo courtesy of Karlene Blair

**Charles W. Arnett, who died March 12 at 88, was a WWII B-24 bomber pilot and led his crew on three combat missions before being shot down and spending a year as a POW. He served in Korea and Vietnam and retired as a Lt Col.**

married Anna, who wrote him faithfully, after only three dates before the dashing young pilot went overseas. Charles made good use of his "bonus" 22,912 days after being shot down.

Born to Tom and Annie Arnett September 5, 1919, in Duncan, Arizona, Charles played high school football and tuba in the band. He earned a degree in Agronomy from BYU, served two LDS missions and fought in

three wars: WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

In 2004, Charles and his family established *The Arnett Institute*, a non-profit fund-raising endowment to help turn projects of historical significance into reality. (<http://arnettinstitute.org>.)

Charles and Anna, who married in the Mesa Temple, focused on service, obedience and education throughout their

*Continued on pg. 17*



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Photo courtesy of Karlene Blair

Charles Arnett, who died on March 12 at 88, was a hero in the eyes of his country and his family. He and his wife, Anna, had seven children, who are shown here with their spouses. Back row (l to r) Wayne Arnett, Paul Arnett, Milan Haws, Karlene Blair, Jasen Blair, Jerry Ethington, David Arnett and Mark Arnett. Front row, Sue Arnett, Marolyn Haws, Anna, Charles, Kat Ethington and Camille Arnett.

#### Charles Arnett: American Hero Continued from pg. 16

lives. Charles served in many capacities, including as a clerk and bishop, in the El Dorado Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake, where he and Anna lived for 28 years, minus the two they served on a temple mission in Sydney, Australia, the land of Charles' first mission.

Anna recalls the years Charles worked as a Mesa Temple worker.

"He'd often say, 'You'll never guess who came in today,'" she recalls, "and once, in exasperation I replied, 'Well, perhaps President Kimball?'"

"Charles grinned, 'Yes!'"

"Did you ask for his recommend?"

"No, after he hugged me, the Temple president escorted him in. I missed the chance."

Anna continues, "President Kimball had been Charles' stake president and, as an apostle, he visited the Arnett farm to pray with and comfort his parents on learning Charles was missing. While a POW, Charles received a wonderful letter from him."

Anna also notes, "President Monson gave Charles the sealing power that allowed him to establish eternal families for our 14 married grandchildren."

At their father's funeral, each of his children praised the accomplishments of particular phase of his life. Wayne

spoke of his early life; David about his missions; Paul, his military service; and Mark, about his parent's courtship and marriage. Karlene (Blair) shared Charles' favorites quotes; Marolyn (Haws) spoke about his parenting and Kat (Ethington), his grandparenting.

Each remembered him as a man of impeccable character, even saying he was "perfect." They said he taught by example, was firm but never raised his voice, and lived according to a favorite quote: "If you never start, you will never succeed. If you never quit, you will never fail."

At an earlier request from Charles, "The Patriot Guard Riders" attended his military graveside service. A national group of motorcyclists, they attend funeral services of fallen American heroes out of respect.

In a fitting final farewell, Louann Thomas, Arizona State Captain, said, "Lt. Col. Charles Arnett (Ret), stand down, sir. Your mission accomplished with great heart and spirit; you are a part of American history and reflect with honor the Greatest Generation. . . . Thank you, sir, for the life I have enjoyed as an American. I am honored to stand for you now as you stood for all of us for so very long. Stand tall, Patriot Guards. Stand proud. An American hero has passed."

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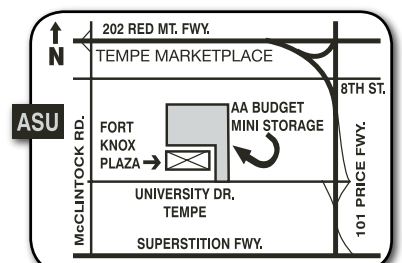
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# Grand Canyon Artist in Residence Paints Beautiful, Principle-Centered Mural

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

In November 2007, Juliana Hutchins Greer, of the Lazona Ward, Mesa Central Stake, was selected by the Grand Canyon Association to be their first South Rim Artist in Residence.

When Julie learned of the opportunity, she wasn't sure she should pursue it.

"It would mean being away from my family for three to four weeks," she says.

Still, though she'd all but dismissed the idea, "I said a quick, close your eyes, 'Heavenly Father do you want me to do this,' type prayer," she says, and, "I didn't really expect it, but I got a very strong answer to do it."

Once that answer came, Julie knew she'd be selected. "I really shouldn't have gotten it," she says. "There were really good applicants, fabulous artists from all over the world. I really shouldn't have gotten it."

This wasn't the first time Julie has prayed and received direction about her art. Widowed several years ago, with four children to care for, she had an opportunity to be represented by an agent from California.

"I would have made a lot of money," she explains. Yet, answers to prayers convinced her, "My work is supposed to be for building the kingdom."

Still today, though her children are raised and Julie is remarried, to Patric Greer, she continues the same practice.

"When I choose a project, I really try to do it prayerfully," she says.

Once named Artist in Residence, Julie was given a choice. "The Park Service let me select of any of the buildings for a mural. They basically gave me carte blanche." She chose the Shrine of the Ages.

"It's a beautiful stone building, with magnificent

woodwork, where they hold education programs, weddings, funerals and community events. It's where several churches, including the LDS Church hold meetings, and where the Grand Canyon Symphony performs," she says.

Julie set out to create a mural that was not only beautiful, but that would teach a principle.

"What I wanted to do was to have a grandmother and granddaughter gazing out over the canyon, to show how generations teach spiritual things through things in nature, not so much by words, but by nature, showing how nature works, the miracle of life," she says.

For her models, she used her next door neighbor, Gloria Lopez, to model the grandmother, and another member of her ward, Yessica Fernandez, was the model for the young girl.

Her mural incorporates several different legends, including Lehi's dream, from the Book of Mormon.

"Down by their feet on the rock, I've painted the spacious building, the iron rod, and people going off the path." She's also included the Hopi legend of the four worlds, and she has portrayed the Tree of Life, "which is a motif that goes through every culture," she says.

Julie says, "I've painted a lot of murals, but I would do one formation. The Canyon has twenty formations right in eyesight. You could get lost in details of landscapes within landscapes."

Though accomplished now, Julie didn't always have the skill to paint.

"I was not very good as a kid," yet, she says, a high school teacher encouraged her, and, "I learned by doing," by painting and drawing, particularly drawing portraits.

"I improved and gained confidence," she says.



Photo by Patric Greer

A mural that now adorns the Shrine of the Ages at the Grand Canyon was painted by artist in residence, Julie Greer, (right) from Mesa, who is shown with Bill Lopez and his wife, Gloria, Julie's next door neighbor, who was the model for the grandmother in the mural.

Yet, when her first husband died, she hid her talent for a while. "After Peter died, I stopped drawing. We used to ride bicycles together a lot and I stopped riding my bike. I stopped doing a lot of things," she says.

Gradually, she says, "I put my emotional and spiritual ducks back in a row" and began to paint again.

Now, she enjoys doing portraits more than ever, and she often paints in a big way. Since completing her mural at the Shrine of the Ages, Julie has done other projects, including two airplane murals at the Deer Valley Airport.

To see samples of her work, visit Julie's Web site at [www.julzhutch.com](http://www.julzhutch.com)



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# HISTORY COMES TO LIFE IN HANDCART MUSICAL

## “1856”

*Musical re-creation of pioneers' saga  
serves as inspiration to future generations*

By Sally Marks  
The Beehive

The handcart musical, 1856, which chronicles the story of Mormon settlers' arduous, 1,300 journey from Iowa City to Salt Lake in 1856, will return to the stage June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 5 at Ikeda Auditorium at the Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main St. in Mesa. Tickets are \$20, \$16, \$14, and \$10 and are available at the Mesa Arts Center box office, or online at [www.mesaartscenter.com](http://www.mesaartscenter.com).

The script, written by Cory Ellsworth and his niece, Tawnya Gray, with assistance from Mildred West Wiseman Packard, depicts the story of the hardships endured by the pioneer families who traveled on foot with handcarts to join other members of the church, hear the voice of their prophet, Brigham Young, settle new frontiers and enjoy a life free of religious persecution.

In 1856, five handcart companies totaling approximately 2,000 people made the journey from Iowa City to Salt Lake. Handcarts were a less costly alternative to wagon teams and oxen. The first three companies (the Ellsworth, McArthur and Bunker companies) made the trip with little difficulty. However, the last two companies (the Willie and Martin companies) suffered through early autumn storms and only reached the Salt Lake Valley with assistance from rescue teams sent out from Salt Lake City.

The rescue teams are credited with saving members of the companies from near-certain death. Despite these

and other heroic efforts, some 250 pioneers perished on the frozen, high plains of Nebraska, Wyoming and Utah. However, despite the hardships, surviving members remained true to their faith, many testifying that their trails strengthened their convictions and loyalty to the Church and the cause they embraced.

The story follows two separate families from their homes in northern England to the Great Salt Lake. Ellsworth said the script stays very close to what is known of the events. The characters are composites of real people in the companies, but do not reflect specific individuals. The Mesa playwright said his goal was to capture the emotional feeling of being there – both the joy and tragedy.

Speaking of the events of 1856, Gordon B. Hinckley, the late president of the LDS Church, said “What a story it is. It is filled with suffering and hunger and cold and death. It is replete with accounts of freezing rivers that had to be waded through; of howling blizzards; of the long, slow climb up Rocky Ridge. Hopefully the story will be told again and again to remind future generations of the suffering and the faith of those who came before. Their faith is our inheritance.”

The musical, now in its fourth season, will return to stages in Arizona and Utah. More than 20,000 people in four states have enjoyed the re-creation of the handcart saga of 1856, which is considered one of the most in-



Joe Paur returns in his role as Brigham Young in the handcart musical, 1856.

Photo by Steve Porter

triguing and important chapters of American history.

The saga is particularly significant in Arizona. Of the roughly 315,000 Mormons in the state, tens of thousands can trace their family history to surviving members of the handcart companies or other early Mormon pioneers.

Ellsworth, Randy Kartchner and Mildred West Wiseman Packard collaborated on the original soundtrack that features 14 original songs that capture the spirit, dedication and sufferings of the handcart companies of that year.

Featured vocalists include Tenor, Joseph Paur, who plays the role of Brigham Young. Paur has starred in numerous stage productions and his movie credits include the lead role in the movie “Rigoletto”. Jamie Kay and John Alston will return in their roles as Sarah and Henry Parker.

The entire production, with its Arizona cast of 140, has received rave reviews in both Arizona and Utah for its compelling story, outstanding performances, memorable music and historical accuracy.

“It was fantastic!” said Nancy Yeager. “It was so touching my husband and I both cried. We both had pioneer ancestors and it really brought their experience to life. The level of talent was so excellent. I wish ev-

*Continued on pg. 21*

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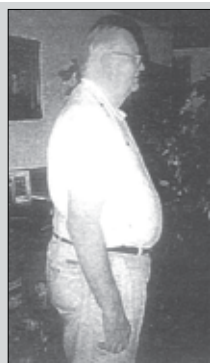
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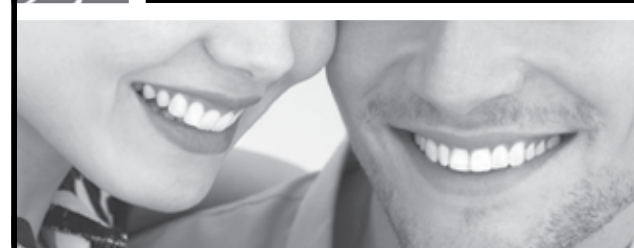
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# Gila Valley couple receives HERITAGE AWARD

By Tina Scott  
The Beehive

**R**oss and Fawn Bryce, of Pima 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Pima Stake, received the 2008 Heritage Award, presented each year by the Graham County

Historical Society to honor people who have deep roots in the community and in ranching.  
Ross, named after his great-grand-

father, was born in 1930, in the small community of Bryce, north of Pima, where he and Fawn still live. Their home overlooks the area's cotton farms and has an unobstructed view of Graham Mountain to the south.

"We've been right here for 78 years," says Brother Bryce. "I was born next door in that house where my youngest son lives now."

Fawn was also born in 1930 and raised in Central, between Pima and Thatcher. The Bryces met in Thatcher High School, where he was senior class president and she graduated as valedictorian.

Fawn was involved in community service for more than 50 years, including as president of the Graham County Democratic Women and Arizona State Democratic Women. She recently was inducted into the Democratic Women's Hall of Fame.

"She was a doer," says Ross. "She gets a lot of credit for the kids being as good as they are."

Fawn also gathered information for, and edited, the *Bryce Book*, a history of the community and the people who lived there.

Until they were teenagers, neither had electricity or running water in their homes. They remember hauling water and using woodstoves for cooking and heating. They raised their own beef and had chickens and a milk cow.

Ross grew up ranching on his family's farm and worked as a ranch manager for his wife's family.

"Ranching has changed quite a bit. We used to ride horses wherever we



Photo by Tina Scott

Fawn and Ross Bryce, of the Pima 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Pima Stake, were the recipients of the 2008 Heritage Award.

went. It'd take us about two weeks to round up," says Ross. "Now they just load the horses in a trailer. They unload and work, and then load up and go back home to a good bed every night."

Ross served an LDS mission, first in the Western States, then, the mission was split, and he served the second year in the Northern States Mission. He also served in the Navy.

Ross attended Eastern Arizona College, studied accounting, took a Brigham Young University ranch management correspondence course, earned his land appraisers certificate in Phoenix, and worked, for a time, as both a land appraiser and ranch manager, managing a crew and 400 head of cattle.

Ross has held many church callings, including bishop and first counselor in the stake presidency. Yet, he says, "The thing I'm most proud of is my family."

The Bryces four sons and a daughter all live in Arizona. One son, Mark Bryce, is currently the president of Eastern Arizona College and is the Pima Stake president.

Ross loves the rural atmosphere and is grateful they were able to raise their children in the Gila Valley.

"I got to spend time with my kids every day," says Ross.

He adds, "[Fawn and I] have never done anything real great, but what we have done is consistently been good, solid citizens in our community."

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# Historic Home School Day at the Mesa Historical Museum

The Mesa Historical Museum will host a day of fun activities especially planned for home school students and their families on Wednesday, May 7 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The museum will offer fun stations of historic activities, in addition to the chance to explore the museum.

The museum is housed in the historic Lehi School and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its six exhibits present the history of Mesa, beginning with "Searching for Mesa: Finding Ourselves in Our History," which offers Mesa's history from its origins to the present day, shown through more than 200 photos and artifacts.

Other exhibits include "Thanks for Tuning In: The Wallace and Ladmo Show," and "Scenes of Mesa," featuring large historic photos of downtown, the Little Adobe School House, two additional rooms on early life in Mesa, and a plethora of historic farm equipment.

The museum also displays biographies, artifacts, a time line, interesting "I didn't know that!" facts, oral histories, and hands-on activities that bring Mesa's history to life.

For the May 7 event, register in advance by calling 480-835-7358 or e-mailing [kaia@mesahistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:kaia@mesahistoricalmuseum.org).

## History Comes to Life Continued from pg. 19

everyone could know about this musical!"

Ellsworth came up with the idea of the play in 1998 while working in London, England. He was asked to teach early morning Seminary for the LDS branch in Addlestone, Surrey. He found the course content – Church History and the Doctrine & Covenants – particularly interesting. He said he was deeply moved by the faith and testimony of the early pioneers, particularly the handcart pioneers who had suffered such great loss. He started by writing a few poems, which eventually evolved into a story line for a play. Musical notes and melodies seemed to stream to him, followed by characters, stories and a structure of a musical.

Once Ellsworth returned to his ancestral home of Mesa, AZ, he sensed a deeply-rooted obligation to complete the musical. He sought out the assistance of Mildred West Wiseman Packard, an experienced composer in Mesa, and Randy Kartchner, a popular composer, arranger and producer. With their assistance and talent, 1856 was transformed into a viable musical production.

The performances are scheduled: June 27, 28, 30 and July 1, 2, 3 and 5 at 7 p.m. There will also be a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, June 28. For more information call the Mesa Arts Center box office at 480-644-6500.

org. (Include number of children and their ages when registering.) Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children aged three and above, free for children

under three and for museum members. The group rate, for groups of 10 or more, is \$3/person.

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seum is located at 2343 N. Horne (north of McKellips). For more information, visit the Web site at [www.mesahistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.mesahistoricalmuseum.org).



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# Sacrifice brings forth blessings totaling \$17,000 and more

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

Nearly every young man preparing for a mission is acquainted with some degree of sacrifice.

Yet, for Mark Muktarov, of the Pioneer Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake, a mission exacted an eight-month-long “second-mile” effort.

Yet, Mark says it was well worth it—and he hopes his example will motivate others to do whatever it takes to serve a mission.

Born in Russia, Mark moved to Mesa with his family when he was 12. He and his parents joined the Church the next year.

“I was the ward mission leader at the time,” says Tony Shumway, now bishop of the Alma 4<sup>th</sup> Ward, Chandler Alma Stake. After Mark’s dad walked into the Mesa Visitors’ Center one day, the referral was sent to Bishop Shumway, who taught the Muktarovs.

While baptizing the family was a “spiritual, amazing thing,” Bishop Shumway says, “Mark was a typical 13-year-old—kind of flaky and, like most, would rather play basketball than go to church.”

A year later, the Muktarovs moved from Arizona and continued to move from place to place for years.

Mark graduated from high school, received a full-ride scholarship and began studying at American University of Washington, D.C., but all but dropped out of church activity.

At 24, along with a college degree, Mark had acquired worldly habits and \$17,000 in debt.

“People told me if I would graduate and get a good job, I’d be happy,” Mark says, “but I was far from happy. That’s when I decided to move back to Arizona and return back into the Church.”

Back in Arizona, Mark’s testimony grew and, called as a ward missionary, he



Photo by Brandt Photography

Mark Muktarov, who paid off \$17,000 in debt so he could serve a mission, hopes his example of hard work and sacrifice will help others preparing to serve.

shared it with others. “Then I decided I wanted to go on a mission,” Mark says.

Yet, he had \$17,000 in debt to clear up and he was nearing the age limit for missionary service. Determined, Mark began working two full-time jobs.

“I would work during the day at the University of Phoenix as a Financial Aid Counselor,” Mark says. He worked from 8 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., slept in his car for a few hours, then, from 10:30 p.m. until 7 a.m., worked at the Airport Hotel as a shuttle driver.

“All of my Saturdays were open, so I also started working at the temple as a temple worker,” Mark says. “It was a pretty intense schedule.”

“I couldn’t date, didn’t buy any clothes, and turned off my cell phone;” yet, he was happy and content, learning firsthand, “When we do what’s right, and righteous, even though it seems like it’s impossible to do, if you really want to do it—if you’re willing to make the sacrifice—the Lord will help you.”

Mark says, in his case, “A miracle has occurred.”

In eight months, he paid off the \$17,000, received a mission call and will leave in April to serve in the New York New York North Mission.

Mark says he relied on the support from many friends and other temple workers, but he couldn’t have done it without the help he’s received from the Lord.

“The Lord has blessed me a lot,” he says. “I feel He has a plan for me and feel the Lord has accepted my offering because he has helped me through this and has called me through his authorized servant, the prophet of the Church, to serve a mission.”

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# FAMILY celebration OF MUSIC & ARTS

comes to Mesa

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

**A**n all-day extravaganza of music and fun, with top LDS performers from across the country as well as local artists, comes to Mesa on May 31.

Called, “A Family Celebration of Music and Arts Festival,” the event offers three main concerts, each featuring three to four groups, as well as a local stage with free concerts throughout the day. In addition, festival participants will be able to browse through the free exhibit hall, where there will be booths featuring the work of artists and writers, as well as several family-oriented businesses.

“It’s going to be a very fun, very full day,” says event coordinator, Jacqui Allen, of Allen Entertainment, the family-run company that is sponsoring the festival.

Jacqui, who is a member of the Horizon Ward in the Gilbert Stake and is going to school to study media production and media management, says, “My

family has always been into entertainment,” adding, “We have a wide variety of interests and are interested in any kind of performing arts.”

“All my sisters sing, we’re into acting, and we have many friends who perform,” she says.

She says her mom and dad, Brent and Barbara Allen of the Fraser Ward in the Mesa North Stake, started a charter boat company in Mexico and considered doing an event there.

Instead, they saw an opportunity more to their liking here in Arizona.

“We could bring in top musicians and give people here a chance to enjoy some really great music,” Jacqui says, and, at the same time, “We saw a lot of local talent and we wanted to give them a chance to perform in front of a lot of people and to get their work out there.”

Headliners for the concert include Ryan Shupe and the Rubberband, in concert on the main stage at 7:30 p.m. Other



Photo by Barbara Allen

Representing the various talents and entertainment that will be part of the May 31 Family Celebration of Art and Music are (l to r) well-known tenor, Jordan Bluth; singer, Mary Hoffman; event organizer, Jacqui Allen; artist, David Bowman and dancer, Stefanie Hyer.

top names appearing at the event include Eclipse, Cheri Call, Rob Gardner, Stephanie Smith, and Mary Hoffman. Also performing on the main stage will be Jordan Bluth, Peter Breinholt, Stefanie Hyer, Copper Rocket, and Kirby Heyborne.

A 10:30 a.m. concert of all spiritual music, with artists Cherie Call, Lauri Carigan, Alex Boye, and Jordan Bluth will open the festival. The three main stage concerts will be at 1:30, 3:30 and 7:30.

The festival is scheduled for May 31, with doors opening at 10 a.m., at the Mesa Convention Center, 236 N. Center in Mesa. Tickets are now available, in-

cluding VIP Festival Passes, for priority seating and admission into all concerts, which are \$18 for children ages 8 and under and \$42 for adults. (Festival pass is \$18 more at the door.) Single concert tickets also are available for \$10 for children ages 8 and under and \$20 for adults (\$5 more at the door).

For details about “A Family Celebration of Music and Arts Festival,” including vendor information and information about obtaining tickets, as well as a complete schedule and bios about each of the performers visit: <http://www.musicandartsfestival.com>.



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**Eclipse**  
(Utah's Best of State  
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Mary Hoffman, Stephanie Smith, Jordan Bluth, Stefanie Hyer,  
Sara Bethany Ham, Copper Rocket, Arthur Murray's Dance,  
and MANY many more!**



**Mary Hoffman**  
(Winner of various vocal competitions,  
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For more information and to buy tickets go to  
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**Jordan Bluth**  
(2007 Pearl Award Nominee  
for Best New Recording Artist)





# QUILT PROJECT "STITCHES" TOGETHER MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

By Tina Scott  
The Beehive

Deanna Mangum, of Thatcher 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, Thatcher Stake, found a way to cross the boundaries and bring church and community members together in a united, and highly productive, humanitarian effort.

Deanna, manager of the Stitches quilt shop in Pima, says, "I was trying to think of something we [at our shop] could do for Valentine's Day."

Aware that, "One of the wards in Pima just finished about 25 quilts and sent them [to LDS Humanitarian Services in Mesa]," Deanna also knew, "The local quilt guild does a yearly [charity] raffle for our show in May."

She believed a combination of these ongoing efforts would make for a wonderful joint project. At first, the goal was to finish 50 quilts between New Year's and the end of February.

"The [Stitches] owner, Nelda Potter backed us 100 percent," says Deanna. "She let us work on quilts here at the shop, provided thread, batting and fabric."

They advertised via e-mails, word of mouth and with posters in the Stitches store window, the Taylor Freeze and the post office.

Determined to make the most of the project, but without having any idea they would actually achieve it, Deanna quickly changed the goal to 100. "I thought I'd rather reach 54 quilts than 49," she says.

The community rallied and the finished total exceeded the objective by a baker's dozen, with 113 quilts completed to be sent to LDS Humanitarian Services in Mesa.

In addition to the work at the shop, members of the Pima Stake got involved through their Women's Conference.

"It kind of snowballed," says Karol Lyn Woodall, of Pima 3rd Ward, Pima Stake, who was asked to plan a service project for the conference around the quilting effort.

The shop provided 13 unfinished quilts, and conference participants finished all 13 that day.

Then, women from Safford, Thatcher and Pima donated finished quilts; others donated large plastic bags of yarn, batting, fabric, pre-cut quilt blocks, while others contributed time in putting together quilt tops and finishing quilts.

"It was really an overwhelming project," says Karol Lyn.

Among the contributions, some were particularly memorable as one Young Women's class worked on quilts, one girl donated for her grandmother, and several others donated quilts in memory of loved ones.

"One of the neatest stories is about a woman from the quilting guild," says Deanna. "She had this friend who passed away and he loved knowledge. She went out and specifically bought fabric [with

books in bookshelves] in honor of him, and made a quilt in hopes that it goes to a child who loves learning."

Deanna says the project provided opportunities to talk about the Church and

the Church's humanitarian efforts.

"[The service project] has brought up so many discussions with people, and it's been kind of nice," she says. "I don't feel that we've done anything special."

It's nothing different than tons of people in wards have done," she continues. "It was just neat that this was not a religious thing, this was not even to support our shop. Everyone just joined in."



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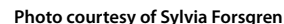
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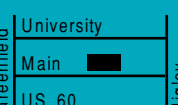


30 • The Beehive



Amidst adversity, his long-awaited  
**EAGLE SCOUT AWARD**  
was a well-deserved surprise

**Continued on pg. 31**





**Amidst Adversity**  
Continued from pg. 30

it to be waiting for me when I got home. My mother and I both followed up on the missing application and did all that we could to find out what had happened. By then, at 18, I was told that I was too old to reapply."

Still, the disappointment never slowed Mark down and he worked tirelessly in Scouting for 34 years in a variety of leadership positions. Currently, he is the troop committee chairman of unit 5021 and the Cub Master of pack 5021, Grand Canyon Council, Coronado District.

"I made the decision years ago," he adds, "that I'd go out of my way to help anyone I could. In Scouting, I didn't want anyone to have the misfortune that I'd had. I was determined to help everyone in my group earn the rank of Eagle."

Mark's positive attitude and desire to look outside of himself illustrates his resiliency. Serving others keeps him moving forward even though he faces several health challenges in his life.

Mark has been diabetic since the age of 17. As a kidney transplant recipient 17½ years ago, and a double amputee of 14 years, he looks life squarely in the eye and does not view his health as a stumbling block.

"I wanted to learn to walk and stay out of a wheelchair," he says. "I go camping with the Scouts and use a walking stick during those times to keep me steady. The Scouts and leaders help me when I

need it. Scouts who don't know I wear a prosthesis on each leg are amazed when I crack a log over my leg. I like to tease the Scouts now and then."

Mark's positive attitude remains constant although the open-heart surgery he underwent in January ultimately shut down his transplanted kidney. He is now undergoing dialysis and hopes to be added to a transplant list for another kidney.

He says, "The way I see it, no matter what, you can't let life get you down." Besides, he knows that, along with the hard times, life brings some wonderful surprises—like a long-awaited Eagle Award.

Last July, Mark's friend, Mallene Elicio, who is also the district advancement chairman, asked Mark why he never received his Eagle. Hearing the story, she decided to see what she could do. Months later, Mark was taken by surprise when, at the Coronado District Eagle Scout and Volunteer Recognition Dinner, "Mallene got up to speak," and, he says, "... when she began to tell my story I knew what was about to happen. I cried, and everyone gave me a standing ovation. After I was given the award, I pinned the 'mother's pin' on my wife, Sylvia. It was a very emotional evening."

Mark, who was given a second "mother's pin," plans to visit his mother soon to deliver her well-deserved pin. He called her to share the news and she happily exclaimed that it was about time.

Mark and Sylvia, who are the parents of seven, will celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this July.



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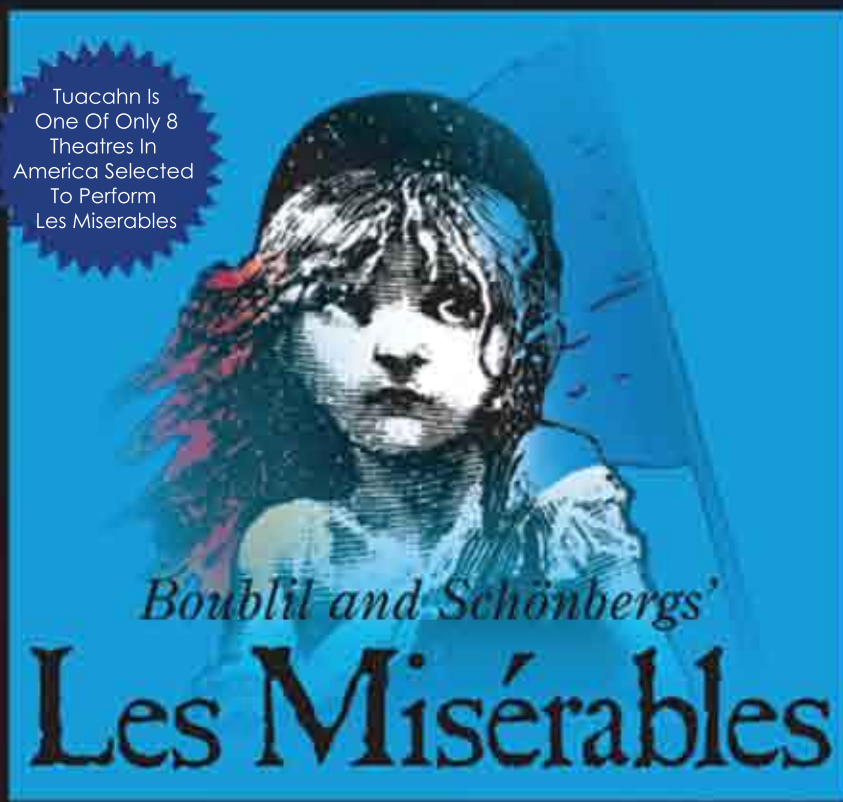
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# Mormon Battalion Trek Announced

## Re-enactors prepare for historic cross-country march

By Denny Henson  
The Beehive

**M**idland, Mich. — On July 5, 2008 in Midland, Michigan a small group of history enthusiasts will begin a re-hike of the Mormon Battalion's Trail from Iowa to California. This year's "Battalion Trek" will be the first complete re-hike of the original 2,000-route and take eight months.

"Our goal is to document the trail and honor the original Battalion and their families by conducting this 'living history' reenactment," said Kevin Henson, Trek coordinator. "We want to give a modern perspective to their military service and contributions they made to the settlement of the West."

The original Battalion was formed

when President James Polk requested 500 men of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to join the Army. The men, called away from their families who were crossing the plains at the time, marched to the west coast and joined other U.S. troops as part of the Army of the West.

Since many people have expressed interest in marching part of the trail, Trek organizers have planned several

levels of participation. Ancestors of the Battalion, history buffs, families, church youth, school, and scout groups are all welcome. Reservations will be taken on a first come first served basis for space available. People inside and outside the U.S. can join the event via the Internet as Virtual VIP's. VIP's will gain special online access to the trail and Battalion history, including live updates throughout the event.

People who wish to participate can hike for a day or more and are encouraged to dress in 1840's costume. Wearing period clothing helps participants "get into the part" and better appreciate the experience, according to Henson, "but having a costume is not necessary to hike with us."

The highest level of participation will consist of a limited group of people who wish to be part of "Cooke's Cadre" during portions of the trek. This group will be outfitted each day with authentic equipment, sleep in hand-sewn Army tents of the time period, and cook 1840's Army meals. This elite group honors Lt. Col. Philip St. George Cooke, the Army commander

that led the Battalion through the Southwest.

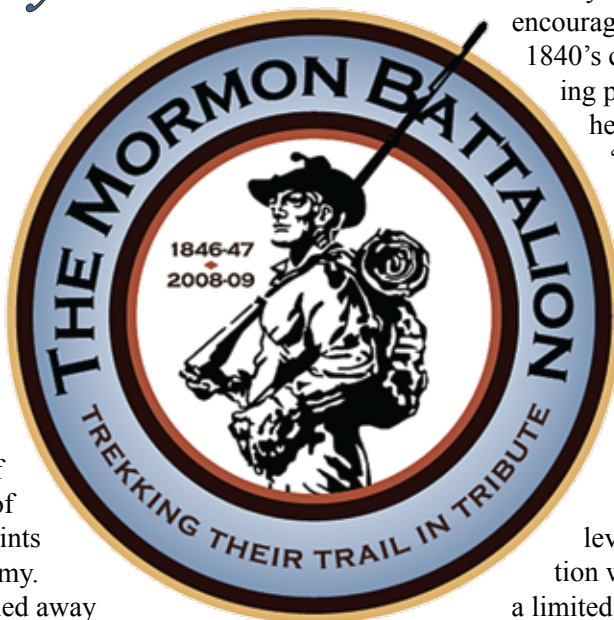
"And, if someone really wants to hike the entire distance, they should call me directly," Henson chuckled.

In several large metropolitan areas on the trail, the community will be invited to join the re-enactors for a day hike and special programs designed to celebrate America's growth along the historic trails. Starting at Mt. Pisgah, Iowa, the Trek schedule is as follows: Council Bluffs/Omaha, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Santa Fe and Albuquerque, NM, Tucson, Mesa, Yuma, AZ, and San Diego, CA. The modern Battalion will muster out in Los Angeles, CA during mid-February 2009, just as the original group did in 1847.

In support of next year's event, the Non-profit Battalion Trek has launched [www.battaliontrek.com](http://www.battaliontrek.com), a Web site with information, hiking schedule, and volunteer opportunities. Those wishing to order Trek merchandise can do so through the website.

All donations of services, equipment, or funds to Battalion Trek are tax-deductible and can be made directly online through the website. Opportunities are available to sponsor a day-hike event, an evening campsite. More information about these options to support the event are online as well.

Reservation forms and additional information about the Mormon Battalion Trek are available at [www.battaliontrek.com](http://www.battaliontrek.com). Send inquiries to [info@battaliontrek.com](mailto:info@battaliontrek.com).



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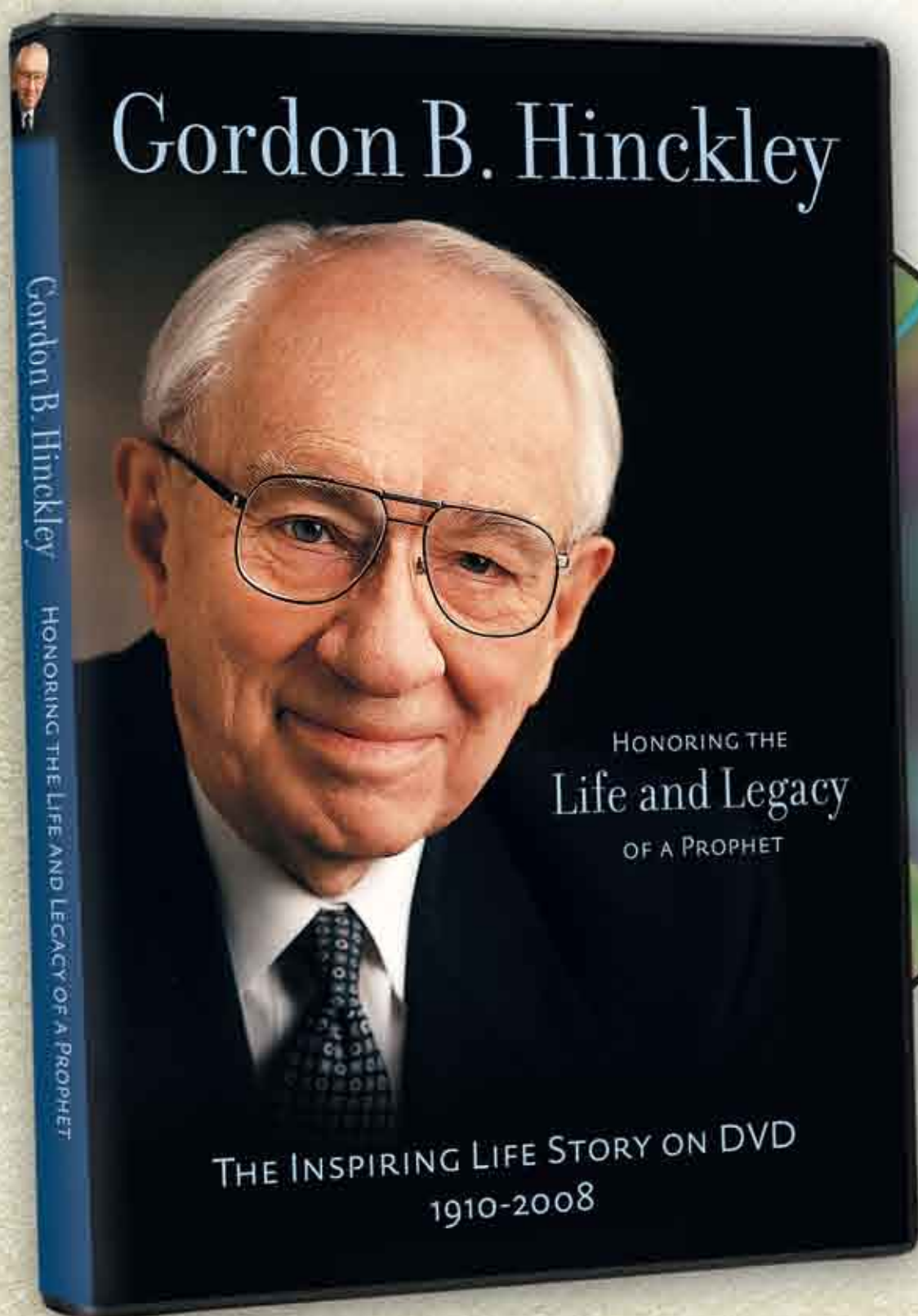
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# LDS Soprano sings on Grammy-nominated CD

By Cecily Markland  
 The Beehive

Cassandra Ewer's list of accolades and awards is impressive.

Her soprano voice, clear and effortless, even in the high tones, is a somewhat rare commodity.

"It's actually prettier above the scale," says Cassandra.

Couple that with her professionalism, her dedication, her beauty and strong stage presence, and throw in her excellent ability to sight read and her pleasant, friendly personality and it's little wonder that Cassandra has had countless opportunities and unique invitations to perform.

Cassandra, who is a member of the Encinas Ward in the Gilbert Stapley Stake, has literally toured the world, has sung in Carnegie Hall, and, recently, recorded on a CD that was nominated for four Grammy awards.

For the past 13 years, Sister Ewer has been a member of the Phoenix Bach Choir, which is regarded as one of the finest professional choral ensembles in America. The 24-member choir performs and records new music as well as traditional masterworks. During the time

Cassandra has been a member, they have toured the continental United States, Hawaii, and British Columbia and they have recorded and released several CDs.

"Our recent CD was released on the Chandos label, which is the largest independent classical music label in the world; headquartered in Great Britain," Cassandra says.

The CD, Grechaninov: Passion Week [SACD] by Buffy Grechaninov, was nominated in four categories, including Best Classical Album of the Year and Best Choral Performance.

For Cassandra, this was not a first.

Yet, she says, "While this is not the first time I have appeared on a Grammy-nominated or Grammy-winning CD, it is the first time for the Phoenix Bach Choir and is special because of my love for and long-time association with this local professional choir."

She and her husband, Richard, were among the group of about 75 who attended the ceremony.

"It was a fun party and we won for Best Engineered CD," says Cassandra.



Photo courtesy of Cassandra Ewer

**An accomplished soprano, Cassandra Ewer has sung with the Phoenix Bach Choir for 13 years and, this year, attended the Grammy Awards after the choir was nominated in four categories.**

On the heels of the Grammy nomination came other exciting news for Cassandra.

"I often feel as though I have been extremely blessed to be in the right place at the right time and this exciting Grammy news comes in the same year that I was invited to sing with another national professional choir who will be touring

Sweden, Denmark, and Norway this summer," she says. "The World Choral Symposium will be held in Copenhagen this summer and Conspirare (the choir with whom I frequently sing) is the only American choir invited to perform."

Cassandra, who serves as the Gospel Doctrine teacher in her ward and sells real estate with her husband, says, "I've always got a thousand irons in the fire."

However, she says, her husband and her children have been extremely supportive.

"My kids really know how much music and singing means to me. When they were smaller (and even now that they are teenagers) and I would leave for rehearsal they would always say, 'Have fun singing, Mom. We know how much you love to sing,'" Cassandra says.

She adds that her three children—Matthew, who is currently serving a mission in Houston, Texas; Jeremy, 16; and Rachel, 14—have grown to love music and singing as well. "It's kind of required in our family," she laughs.

Cassandra says, like most people, she and her family have faced some adversity over the years. Yet, she says, she has learned to "sing" through it all and to be grateful in all things.

"I truly feel so blessed and fortunate to have had the opportunities I've had," she says. "I am truly astonished at my blessings...it almost doesn't seem possible that such amazing and cool things could be happening to me."

The Phoenix Bach Choir music can be downloaded from Amazon.com. Also, CDs are available on their Web site, at [www.bachchoir.org](http://www.bachchoir.org), where a list of upcoming concerts also is available.

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## GENERATION TO GENERATION:

# MUSIC IS A FAMILY TRADITION

By Jill B. Adair  
The Beehive

For the Haws family, of Mesa, music is a family tradition, giving opportunities for service and for creating special memories.

Three generations of musicians have used their piano skills to learn another instrument—the organ—and, now, as ward organists, they have a combined total of more than 100 years of service, and counting.

“It’s been fun to have this in common with my dad and grandpa,” says 25-year-old Jared Haws of the Chandler Stake, who was called earlier this year as his ward’s organist. That makes him the third generation providing music for weekly sacrament service in the East Valley.

Jared’s father, Robert Haws, of the Mesa Kimball East Stake, has spent about 37 years with his feet on the pedals, and Robert’s father, 78-year-old Ross Haws, of the Mesa Citrus Heights Stake, figures he’s played about 65 years.

Jared learned piano with his four siblings when he was young but started playing the organ on his mission.

“I guess a lot of it I learned from watching my dad,” says Jared.

He says his musical abilities filled a void in many of the areas where he served on his mission and invited the

Spirit into many missionary experiences.

His father, Robert, began taking piano lessons when he was six years old and was asked to play in Priesthood meeting as a Deacon. Robert later learned to play the organ when he went through a two-week “how-to” course the Church offered.

In high school, he played organ in a band that provided music for dances in the Mezona Hall in Mesa.

“We hauled that organ around in the



Photo courtesy of Jared Haws

Jared Haws is the third generation of ward organists in the Haws family.

back of a truck,” he recalls.

As an adult, Robert has played the organ in his ward almost weekly for congregational hymns and as an accompanist for special numbers.

He says music has always helped



Photo courtesy of the Haws family

Music is a family tradition for the Haws family, from back to front is Lorraine, Robert, Ross, James and Kylie, who recently participated in the piano Cavalcade of Rhythm held in Mesa in February.

him feel closer to Heavenly Father and the gospel.

Robert’s father, Ross, began playing the piano at age five and later took organ lessons. As a Deacon he provided music for Priesthood meetings and, for him, that began a lifetime of playing, accompanying others and teaching music.

“I’ve played a lot of church music,” he says. “It’s been fun. It has taken a lot of work, but I’ve enjoyed it.”

His abilities have given him a wide range of experiences, including teaching music at Carson Jr. High in Mesa and private accordion lessons. While living in California, he played for a stake choir for 35 years, held benefit concerts and played for a Methodist church’s Sunday services. He returned to Arizona eight years ago and plays the organ at the temple twice a week.

He and his wife, Beth, made sure that music was taught to their eight children as they were growing up. Now the couple has 36 grandchildren and 15

great grandchildren and many of them are continuing the musical tradition.

Four generations of Hawses performed in the piano Cavalcade of Rhythm held in Mesa this past February. The event, sponsored by the Desert Valley Music Teachers Association, featured groups of 40 musicians at 20 pianos.

Ross and Robert participated in the event and were joined by Robert’s son, James, and his daughter, eight-year-old Kylie, of the Kimball East Stake.

Family get-togethers and special occasions are usually highlighted by a duet by Robert and Ross. Recently, Robert and Jared performed for the first time together, creating a new tradition in the family.

Robert’s wife, Lorraine, who also plays the organ and has taught piano for nearly 30 years, says music has been a bonding experience in their home.

“It creates such special memories,” she says.



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## Contest winner now drives **"THE BANDIT"**

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

**R**umor has it that Burt Reynolds has been seen driving the East Valley streets in his "Bandit"—the 1977 shiny, black Trans Am of "Smokey and the Bandit" movie fame.

While it's true that Reynolds' Trans Am is now housed in Arizona, and it's also true that the driver did make a movie, it isn't Burt Reynolds at the wheel.

Owner and operator is Spencer L. Brinkerhoff, III, of the Boulder Creek Ward in the Boulder Creek Stake, and the movie he made is a video he entered in a contest to win the \$80,000-valued vehicle.

"I'm 35, almost 36," Spencer explains, "so, in 1977, when the movie came out, I was more concerned with Star Wars. But," he continues, "'Star Wars' was the number one movie that year and 'Smokey and the Bandit' was number two."

Spencer was more than intrigued when he heard about the contest that would air on the Do It Yourself (DIY) Network's Celebrity Rides.

"A video ad explained, 'You can win Burt Reynolds' Trans Am. Submit your own video telling Burt why you deserve to win,'" Spencer says.

That was all the enticement he needed.

Spencer, who is married to Jennifer, is the father of five children ranging in age

from one to nine. He went to Eastern Arizona College for two semesters, served a mission to Japan, then returned to graduate from Arizona State University with a fine arts degree. Currently, Spencer is serving as the Assistant 11-year-old Scoutmaster in his ward.

He says, when he saw the ad, his background as a leader of a creative media design team, graphic designer, illustrator, animator and marketer kicked in.

"The ad suggested using your creativity and talents to capture Burt's attention," he says.

Immediately the mental wheels started turning, and, within four days from start to finish, Spencer had created the concept, filmed the video, done all the cleanup and posted his grand-prize winning entry.

"Just posting it, I felt like I had already won, just because it was a completion. I did it. I just got up and did it," he says.

He filmed most of his prize production himself with assistance from his father-in-law, Doug Young. It uses stop-motion animation to show Spencer, dressed like Burt Reynolds, and appearing to be driving an invisible Trans Am through the countryside. At the end, he stops in a cloud of dust and remarks, "All I need now is the car."

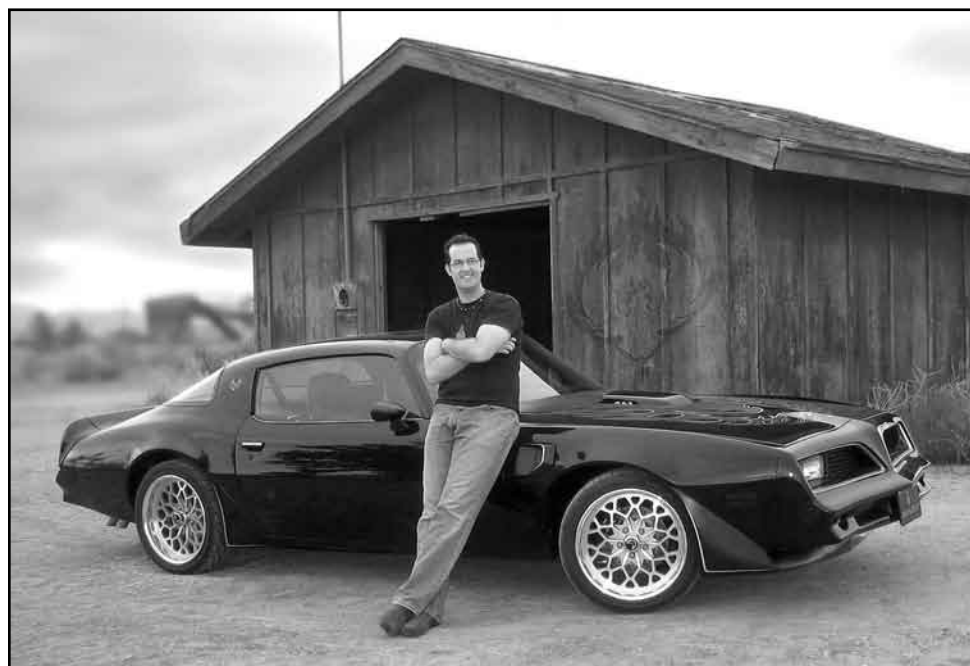


Photo by Spencer D. Brinkerhoff

Spencer L. Brinkerhoff, III, shows off the "Bandit"—the 1977 Trans Am from the Burt Reynolds' movie, "Smokey and the Bandit"—which he won as grand prize in a national video contest.

Reynolds, who was one of the judges, was impressed. He said, "...He has all the right moves to drive the real Trans Am."

To check those moves yourself and to see some of Spencer's other work, log on to his Web site at: [www.StudiosB3.com](http://www.StudiosB3.com).

As the contest winner, Spencer now drives the real thing—but only on occa-

sion.

"It takes premium gas and, every other time you drive it, you have to fill it up," he laughs.

He has shown the car at some car shows and, while he may sell it in the future, for now, he's simply enjoying the ride.

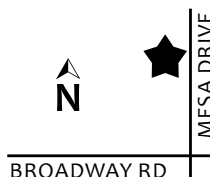
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# find time to link to the past

By Jill B. Adair  
The Beehive

When the Laurels of the Hampton Ward, in the Mesa Skyline Stake, agreed to an indexing challenge issued by the Priests, they thought they'd probably get a few hundred names done.

Yet, only four weeks into the seven-week challenge the youth were excited and amazed to have indexed nearly 15,000 names.

"This indexing challenge has been a great strength to me," says 17-year-old Holden Norton. "Indexing becomes easier and easier every time you do it. You just have to persevere. The spirit comes strong when you do it and you know you are doing the Lord's work."

According to the Church's Web site, FamilySearch Indexing is a program that uses the work of thousands of volunteers to extract family history information from digital images of historical documents to create searchable indexes that assist everyone in finding their ancestors.

The Hampton Ward Young Men's president, Phil Shumway, says his five Priests got signed up and trained to do the indexing at a Mutual activity and, since then, they've been doing it on their own time.

"They're finding time after school, on weekends, after homework and during spring break," he says. "They've found that it's so easy, whether you have five or 15 minutes, or an hour, you can do some names."



Photo courtesy of Christine McLaws

In response to a challenge from the Priests, youth from the Hampton Ward participated in indexing family history records. Shown from left, Brother Phil Shumway (Young Mens President), Cameron Shumway, Brenton Smith, Michelle McCleve, Robert Bamrick, Aleece McLaws, Sis. Christine McLaws (Young Womens President), Sarah Blomquist, Sister Elizabeth Westberg (a Young Womens leader), and Megan Windsor. Kneeling: Holden Norton.

"At first they were just checking the names and it seemed a bit tedious," he says, "But then they begin to understand that this really is a vital thing; something that really needs to be done. It's really been a good thing."

Young Women president Christine McLaws says the seven Laurels really took off with the indexing. Leaders also got involved, but decided their numbers, while reflected in the total, wouldn't be counted toward who would win the dinner riding on the challenge.

"At first, I think we all thought that maybe we could do a few hundred names," she says. "But soon we were into the thousands. They've constantly been working on names; it's just amazing how far we've come."

She, too, knows how busy the young women are but says it's wonderful to see them making time to do the work. "It is such a great service," she says.

Along the way, the youth have gained a better understanding of the importance and purpose of family history efforts, and how that leads to having temple work done.

"It's been a great experience helping these families

come together," says Kristen Reid, 16.

"I feel that by doing this we are helping temple work along," says Aleece McLaws, 17. "I know those on the other side are grateful that their work is getting done."

There have also been blessings realized for the youth.

Seventeen-year-old Brenton Smith has worked on the project at home with his mom. "I love it because it gives me time to spend with my mother and I love spending time with her," he says. "I never have time anymore to spend with my mother with school, choir, stage crew and band...so I am thankful for all of the genealogy."

The challenge ended before General Conference, on Friday, April 4, but, it seems winning hasn't turned out to be the most important thing. Brother Shumway thinks the competition got the youth motivated, "but, now, it doesn't really matter who wins," he says. "They realize it's just important to get the work done."

For more information on FamilySearch Indexing, go online to [www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org).



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# Making music from the soul

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

When Clyde Bawden touches the piano keys, what emerges is his own brand of worship, with tonal patterns and musical messages so compelling, so inspiring that listeners' hearts are softened and souls are stirred.

Clyde, a member of the 20th Ward, Maricopa North Stake, considers his talent a gift.

Indeed, his ability to compose and play has distilled, not from lessons and instructions, but from hours of listening, and heeding, of setting fingers to keys and waiting for direction from above.

Then, with that gift, Clyde chooses to watch for ways to serve and to bless lives. Most recently, that has come in the form of a new CD, "Hymns to Him," which he created at the request of his mother, Claralee Bawden.

"I have a great mom and she had been asking me for years to do a CD of hymns. 'Do it, before I die,' she'd say, and there's nothing like the motivation of a mother," Clyde says.

So, "Hymns to Him" was born, with Clyde's unique interpretations and performances of praise, including, "If You Could Hie to Kolob," "Come unto Jesus," "In Humility, Our Savior," and "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,"

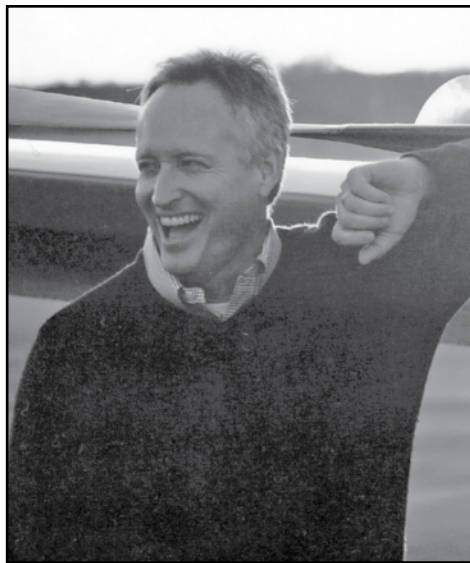


Photo by Brian King

Composer Clyde Bawden recently completed a new CD, "Hymns to Him," and also contributed his talents in support of the Reflections of Christ project for which he arranged, played, and helped to produce the music soundtrack.

"At about the time I was finishing this CD, the Reflections of Christ project came on the scene," Clyde says, referring to a photographic project envisioned by his son-in-law, Mark Mabry, Jr., that was to portray the life and mission of the Savior.

"Mark approached me about helping with the music and put me and Jason Barney

together," Clyde says.

Jason is a sound engineer and owner of Talmage Studios.

"When I met Jason, there was an immediate connection. It was an amazing kind of moment," Clyde says.

In Jason's studio, along with Clyde, singer Freddy Ashby and celloist Hope Shepherd gathered to begin work on Clyde's arrangement of "In Humility Our Savior" for the Reflections of Christ soundtrack.

"I had never met Hope, never met Jason. I sat down and played my 'Hymns to Him' rendition and she started to follow along," Clyde recalls. "It was so beautiful the first time through and the spirit was so amazingly strong."

That was the first of many similar experiences as they worked to arrange,

*Continued on pg. 40*

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## CYBER SURFING

with  
Jill B. Adair

I haven't served in the Scouting program, but I do have a son who earned his Eagle so I am familiar with pack meetings, merit badges, and rank advancements; and, I can't forget my favorite cheer—the watermelon!

For Scout leaders, a lot of training meetings and resources are made available, but the Internet has a vast amount of anything Scouting—so, for leaders, parents and Scouts themselves, the Internet should not be overlooked.

Boy Scouts of America's official site is [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org). Start here for information about Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity and Venturing Program. Learn about Scout safety, Philmont Scout Ranch, jamborees and Scouting facts. Under Cub Scout, is information for parents and leaders as well as fun activities for the Scout, including online, Scouting-related games. Watch a video presenta-

tion titled, "The Value of Scouting." Search "historic trails" in the search box for more than 300 nationally approved historic trails, listed by state, for all levels of Scouters. There is also information on employment opportunities in Scouting.

BSA's magazine can be found at [www.scoutingmagazine.org](http://www.scoutingmagazine.org). The current issue is available or back issues to September 1998. Search by topic for helpful articles and resources.

For the official, current catalog of BSA merchandise, visit <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsasupply>.

More localized information is on Grand Canyon Council's site at [www.grandcanyonbsa.org](http://www.grandcanyonbsa.org). This site offers an online learning center for leaders, information on Scout camps and hiking in Arizona, Eagle packets, Order of the Arrow information and much more.

Scoutorama.com provides a Pinewood

Derby section, nearly 500 Scout skits, 372 Scout songs, 340 Eagle projects, 68 Scoutmaster's Minutes, 214 camping food recipes and many links to individual troop's Web sites.

Randall Smith has a site at <http://home.flash.net/~smithrc/eagleprj.htm> where he shares his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Planning Guide. He provides great helps for choosing a project, coordinating with an agency, planning details, developing leadership and completing the final write-up.

MacScouter, <http://macscouter.com>, is an amazing resource with "The MacScouter's Big Book of Skits," including more than 400 skits and tips on how to stage them. A couple of skits are just for leaders to perform. Another list is a great collection of stories—from Native American, spooky, humorous, mystery, Western to stories with a moral and audience participation. There are hundreds of games, divided up for younger and older Scouts as well as for indoor and outdoor play; some go back to the earliest days of Scouting by Baden-Powell. This site also offers Scouting ceremonies, Scoutmaster and committee resources and downloadable clipart.

Another site, U.S. Scouting Service Project at <http://usscouts.org>, offers a

wealth of Scout-related materials. Here you'll find the Scouting Merit Badge pamphlets online, award information and updates of recent changes in requirements for merit badges and rank advancements.

You can find merit badge information and helpful worksheets at [www.merit-badge.com](http://www.merit-badge.com).

While I found only a couple of worthwhile things at <http://members.aol.com/randywoo/bsahis/index.htm>, which is titled "The Ultimate Boy Scouts of America History Site," I did think the list under "famous" was interesting enough. Did you know that Bill Clinton and George Strait were Cub Scouts? Hank Aaron and Jimmy Stewart were Boy Scouts, Harrison Ford and Bill Gates were Life Scouts, Neil Armstrong was an Eagle Scout as well as Steven Spielberg, Bill Bradley and Gerald Ford was the first Eagle Scout to become president of the United States.

*Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail: [5adair@cox.net](mailto:5adair@cox.net).*



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## Making Music From the Soul Continued from pg. 39

play and produce the music that now sets the tone and carries the spirit from the moment visitors open the door to the Reflections of Christ exhibit at the Mesa Visitors' Center.

"I don't think I've ever been so directed in a positive way," Clyde says. "I believe this exhibit, with Mark's photographs and the soundtrack, is important to Heavenly Father and that a lot of people have and will be touched by it."

He says he can't take credit for his participation.

Instead, he says, "I just had to get out of the way and let Heavenly Father manifest His hand. It came from afar. It came from the Lord, and I couldn't have messed it up."

For more about Reflections of Christ, including information about the coming soundtrack CD, visit [www.reflection-sofchrist.org](http://www.reflection-sofchrist.org). Clyde Bawden's music is available on iTunes or to learn more about Clyde or purchase CDs visit [www.clydebawden.com](http://www.clydebawden.com).



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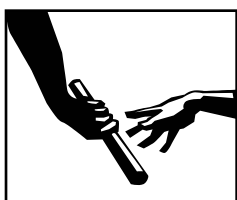
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## "Sole Sistas" run relay from Wickenburg to Mesa



Photo by Heather Darger

Seventeen members of the Sierra Ranch Ward Relief Society participated in the Ragnar Del Sol relay race from Wickenburg to Mesa.

By Stacy Johnson  
The Beehive

Recently, 17 women from the Sierra Ranch Ward in the Queen Creek East Stake, participated in the Ragnar Del Sol relay race from Wickenburg to Mesa.

Three of the women worked as race volunteers, two participated as drivers, while 12 women ran the 182-mile relay, each sister running three separate three-to-eight mile legs of the race.

Thirteen of the 17 participants have been involved as members of their ward Relief Society fitness group; and team captain, Alys Morris, remembers when she first mentioned the idea of the relay to the others, "I seriously thought we were just going to register and then show up and run. Little did I know what we were all in for."

In addition to regular workouts, they had monthly meetings to go over the rules, plan meals, and decide how to cover expenses during their two-day adventure.

The team started the race at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 29. As the race ensued, the three volunteers worked three-hour shifts at different exchange points. They worked into the middle of the night to make sure runners who were just beginning their leg of the race were wearing reflective vests, had their race numbers visible, and were wearing or carrying running lights.

Each of the drivers was responsible for driving a 12-passenger van carrying six runners. They would drop off the first runner, then drive to the next ex-

change to pick her up and drop off the next runner—for a total of 36 separate exchanges.

The 12 runners endured blisters, exhaustion and what seemed all-too-short recovery times before taking their turn for the next leg.

Wendy Fuller, who began running last fall to stay in shape and be part of the relay team, says, after her second leg, she broke into tears and wasn't sure she could go on.

Yet, looking back on the experience, she relates, "I knew that the outcome of this race would decide if I would give up running in the future or want to go harder and become better. I am glad to say it is the latter."

Racers Karolee Fritz and Kathleen Burley had run marathons in the past, but felt this relay was harder.

Karolee says, "The heat and lack of sleep made running feel almost impossible. I also felt like I was in a haze; not quite asleep and not quite awake. In a marathon it's hard for a couple of hours and this was hard for 20."

At 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, as the last runner was 100 yards from the finish line at Riverview Park in Mesa, the rest of the team joined her so they could finish line. Also greeting them were their husbands, who had watched the combined total of 46 children while the women were gone for two days.

Amelia Ortiz says, "I was so glad to see my husband and kids. We couldn't have done it without the support of our husbands and families."

## AND SO IT BEGINS



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## From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

### *Count your blessings, Name them one by one...*

The familiar refrain was the perfect introduction to that day's testimony meeting. Always a time for witnessing and for grateful recounting of the Lord's hand and influence, this particular meeting seemed to me to be strictly a long laundry list of one person's good fortune, after another's familial bliss, after another's career success, after another's miraculous recovery and restored health.

Somehow, the recounting of one "blessing" after another failed to evoke a sympathetic response in me. That particular week, I just couldn't relate. Instead, I had a list as long as the other speakers' combined, of what wasn't working, what was falling apart, what was ailing me and failing me. As blessings were

enumerated and gratitude expressed, the thought came: What's wrong with me? Where are the blessings in my life?

With that thought came an almost immediate answer: "Right there." And, with that answer, came the immediate understanding of what that answer meant.

Indeed, my blessings were right there. Right there in the trials, and because of the trials, I was blessed with opportunities to stretch and grow, to test my faculties, to develop creativity and problem-solving skills. Indeed, I was blessed with a life that was far from boring. Trials blessed me, too, with those very things that caused me to spend more time on my knees, more time in the scriptures, more time in coming to know the Lord.

Trials were blessing me with opportunities to sacrifice, to be stripped

of pride, to be more humble, more teachable, more Christlike—yes, I was being blessed, with the greatest kinds of blessings.

Further study and pondering has provided yet another perspective. That is, while it's great to get blessings, we're also expected to give blessings. By that, I don't mean donating to charity or serving our fellow man or other activities that bless others' lives. While those things are good and right, and much can be said for the daily practice of blessing others' lives, the key is in the meaning of the word itself.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word (baw-rahk'), or blessing, meaning "to kneel", and was used one way or another hundreds of times to convey the meaning of respect or adoration. You would kneel before a king in respect, or to offer thanks for something. Of course,

you would kneel to God in adoration, praise, thanksgiving, supplication.

Indeed we're taught, "Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness forever." (Alma 26:8)

Do we regularly bless his name—in good times and bad—in times of outpourings of rich material blessings and in times that are lean? Do we reverence his handiwork in our lives, praise him for the way in which, through trials, he blesses us and makes us like him?

*Count your blessings.  
Name them one by one  
And, it will surprise you  
what the Lord hath done.*

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## Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

### "Our Missionary Miracle"

Grandmother Maria Martinez, five feet short, hair tightly twisted at the back of her head, cooked like an angel. In 1930, while living in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, she and her husband Antonio found the gospel. They eventually moved to Mesa, then to Salt Lake City where Antonio became branch president of the Spanish-speaking Cumorah Branch.

But, I'm ahead of the story. As Maria and Antonio struggled in Texas to make ends meet, she began feeding the missionaries. In doing so, she discovered her family always had enough to eat.

Then and there, a tradition was born; faith became their driver and it remains so in the lives of her grandchildren—especially her grandson, Richard McCurdy of Gilbert, father of five. By the way, Richard's father, Charles McCurdy of Pocatello, was one of those missionaries his grandmother fed.

Today, Richard and his wife, Beatriz, feed missionaries, daily, at their Queen Creek Mexican food restaurant, El Rico's.

Now, as we all know, every story has a dilemma. Seven years ago, soon after the McCurdy family moved from Salt Lake into the Stapley Stake, they turned a small, "artsy feeling," southwest building into a taco stand. Within weeks, the place was a-booming. Richard says, "It was not uncommon to wait 30 to 40 minutes to get to the window. People would sit in the sun or cold and kids played on the grass."



Despite economic downturns, Richard and Beatriz McCurdy, owners and operators of El Rico's Mexican food restaurant, carry on a family tradition of feeding the missionaries who frequent their affordable, family-friendly establishment.

Several years ago, a customer offered to help Richard expand. A site was chosen and Richard—an artist as well as a chef—designed a place where families are welcome, wedding receptions and celebrations can be held, and everyone can be inside or out as they choose.

Today, right across the street from the now-vacant taco shop, at 25728 S. Power Rd., stands the palatial, mustard-

colored, two-story Spanish building. It fulfills the dreams of the McCurdy family—and it wouldn't be a far stretch to say, "the dreams of Grandmother Maria." El Rico's Mexican Food restaurant is home. So what's the problem, you say?

No official poll has been taken, but it appears El Rico's customers are—well, we could say—intimidated by

the beautiful new building. Business has dropped off. No, the menu hasn't changed; what Richard and Beatriz call "Mexican comfort food made from flavorful, family recipes," is the same. The cooks and waiters (including seven family members) are the same, as are the smiles and fast service. Yes, they still close on Sundays and won't serve alcohol, but, that's not new. So, what else could it be?

As for those missionaries? Oh, they still drop by every day. At the taco stand, Richard said he fed well over a dozen a day. Then, he got word that the mission president was worried they were creating a burden on the McCurdy budget and told them not to eat so often at El Rico's.

With Grandmother Maria's promise in mind, Richard told the missionaries: "Who are they to deny my blessings?" Though fewer come, many still do. It's a good thing. The McCurdys count on those servants of God, with their nametags and hungry faces.

Unless you live around Riggs and Power Road, you might think the drive is a bit far to enjoy the faith-built, miracle restaurant. But, something to remember: Ambiance and casual dining for families is priceless; and, El Rico's affordable meals make the journey worthwhile. Check the Web site: [elricos.com](http://elricos.com).

One more thing: Tell the missionaries hello when you drop by.

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# EXODUS TREK TEACHES YOUTH to LOOK to CHRIST

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

Over Spring Break, 270 young men and women from the seven wards in the Mesa Mountain View Stake made an Exodus from Mesa and, typifying the children of Israel, spent two days wandering in the wilderness along the Butterfield Stagecoach Trail Butterfield east of Gila Bend.

With costumes created by Julene Jones, of the Groves Ward, the young men and young women dressed the part, with a color-coordinated sash around their waist to indicate their assigned tribe and a headband representing their family.

"This got them out of the world, sort of put the mantles on them," says Todd Rogers, Stake Young Mens President.

Then, a series of experiences were designed to foster understanding of the Old Testament text and, more importantly, to teach lessons for today.

"Knowing that this year's Seminary course of study is the Old Testament, we felt an Exodus Trek would help them with seminary; while what they were learning in seminary would help them have a better experience on the trek," Brother Rogers says. He adds that Jim Rhead, from Highland Ward, a Jewish scholar, was a wealth of knowledge in helping to write the outline and, Trail Boss, Boyd Anderson was a great help in organizing the event.

Todd says because, "Exodus is full of types and symbols. It's easy to look at them and see how they apply to us



Photo by Steve Porter

Nearly 270 youth from the Mesa Mountain View Stake dressed the part of the children of Israel, carried flags representing the 12 Tribes and participated in various experiences as part of an Exodus Trek to help them more fully look to Christ by understanding the Old Testament scriptures and the symbolism they hold for today.

today."

For example, he says, as the youth walked through the desert that first morning, they had no water in the handcars, until they arrived at "Mt. Horeb" where Stake President Don Evans, portraying Moses, struck a rock and water came forth out of the rock.

"We then talked about the reality of living water, and that it is through Christ that we have that living water," Todd says.

"Basically everything we did was to convey the idea that we 'Look to Christ and live.' It was to help the kids understand that the children of Israel looked

forward to Christ coming; and today we need to look to his teachings, look forward to his second coming," Todd says.

Rylee Rogers, 15, of the Groves Ward, says, "The coolest experience was when we had a bonfire and there was a golden calf idol there and we threw away what we need to get rid of."

"We talked about the golden calves and false gods that turn us away or divert our attention from Christ. In a slot in the golden calf, they threw away things they want to leave behind, something that want to give up," Todd explains.

President Evans says, "The thing that was most profound to everyone was

probably the erection of the tabernacle. It was done to scale and was really incredible."

The tabernacle was engineered by Morris Mickleson, of the Groves Ward.

Brother Rogers says, "Building the tabernacle, was an amazing experience. We hiked in the morning, got to the spot and had lunch. Then we constructed the tabernacle... and it was interesting that the kids treated it with great reverence."

The second year Priests and Laurels taught about the various items that would have been in the tabernacle. The second year Priests were also given the opportunity to portray the Levites, who carried the Arc of the Covenant in front of the tribe.

"I think they thought about and took to heart the scripture, 'They who carry the vessels of the Lord, be ye pure,'" says Brother Rogers.

On the Exodus Trek, the youth also learned about the olive press.

"One representative from each tribe, six boys and six girls, were then selected to pull the handcart by themselves up a steep hill with loose rock," says Todd. "This represented their olive press and the sacrifice that these 12 were doing for all of us, helped kids understand the Savior's sacrifice, in him doing what they could not."

"Our kids were tremendous," says Brother Evans, "and I think they now have a better understanding of the necessity and the joy that comes from looking to Christ."

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## LDSJournal.com offers free, secure, simple online journaling

LDSJournal.com, a free online journaling service, is especially designed for Latter-day Saints to easily safely and securely record their daily experiences online. The creators of LDSJournal say, "The new Web site is the first of its kind aimed at providing the more than 13 million members of the LDS Church with a modern way to record life's lessons, document spiritual experiences, and connect with generations to come."

Entries can easily be posted, kept private, and backed up on secure servers. LDSJournal.com users will also have the option of printing out hardbound books of their journal entries and photos for storage. Users can access their LDSJournal.com account wherever there is Internet access, from computers and PDAs or mobile phone devices. The Web site, initially launched in English, will expand to include Spanish, Portuguese, French and Tongan within the year.

Says Nick Jones, President of LDSJournal.com. "Most people already go online multiple times a day and are used to typing to communicate with e-mails and text messages instead of writing, so why not with journaling too? People are more likely to record their lives if the process is simple and similar to something they are doing already."

For more information on LDSJournal, visit LDSJournal.com.

## St. David holds 130<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and town reunion

Have you ever lived in St. David, Arizona? Or, do you have friends or relatives who lived in St. David?

The St. David School and Town Reunion will be held over Labor Day weekend, on Friday and Saturday, August 29 and 30.

More than 2,000 people are expected to join in the festivities, which will include a hometown football game, barbecue dinner, San Pedro Valley Fair, fireworks, and free time for visiting with friends and family. Some families and individual school classes are planning to hold their reunions during this weekend as well.

The 130th birthday celebration and town reunion is sponsored by St. David Heritage & Cultural Arts Society and St. David Schools and is for anyone who has lived in St. David, Arizona. The planning committee is asking for help in getting the word out to any former St. David residents.

To request more information about the event, e-mail [stdavidreunion@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidreunion@gmail.com)

By Molly Marks  
The Beehive

For a dental practice that works for the entire family, University Dental offers an exceptional choice with a full range of affordable services and a caring, competent staff that works to make the experience at the dentist the best it can be.

Office Manager Carolyn Geddes says, "We go out of our way to see that our patients are comfortable and that they are treated with respect and dignity."

Carolyn, who is a member of the Ranch Ward in the Queen Creek Stake, says, in its four years of operation, University Dental has gained a reputation for providing excellent care to families across the East Valley.

With a staff of five, including dentist Stan Covington, University Dental is a one-stop shop in terms of family dentistry, offering all of the services families might need at an inexpensive rate.

The office offers several types of cosmetic treatments, including dental implants, Invisalign and Lumineers. They also provide in-office bleaching and at-home bleaching kits and free consultations for dentures and other cosmetic

procedures.

University Dental uses up-to-date practices and technology, including using digital x-rays because they cause less exposure for their patients. They also offer nitrous oxide during treatments for patients who prefer it.

According to Carolyn, many families also appreciate the cost benefits they find at University Dental. She says they work to reduce fees and to make dental care affordable to all of the families they treat. They accept many insurance plans, including most PPOs. For the many families who may not have dental insurance,

their experience at the dentist. If a child overly anxious, they will refer him or her to a pediatric dentist.

Carolyn says, "We welcome new patients and invite them to experience our style of care."

University Dental is located between Stapley and Horne at 1010 East University Drive in Mesa. Their office is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. University Dental is currently accepting new patients. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 480-644-7777.

# University Dental Keeps Patients SMILING



Photo by Cecily Markland

At University Dental, Dr. Stan Covington and his staff (l to r) Stacy Pruitt, Judy Peterson, Carolyn Geddes and Xochitl Ramirez offer a family-friendly atmosphere and a full range of affordable dental services.

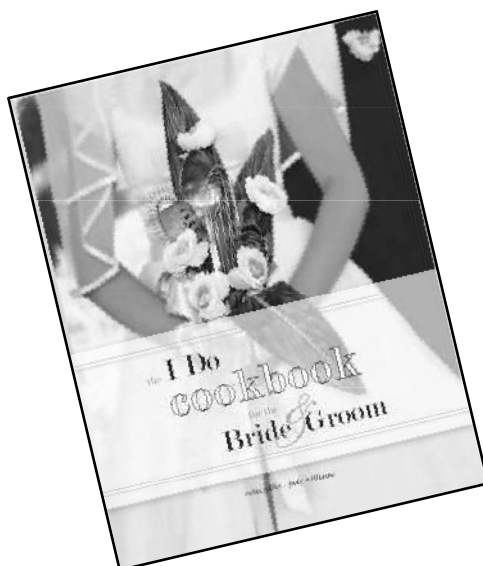
University Dental provides several different ways of flexible financing.

Carolyn says Dr. Stan Covington is very conservative and does not ever do any unnecessary dental work.

"Patients keep coming back because of his friendly personality and his quality of work. We try to treat our patients the way we would want to be treated," Carolyn states.

University Dental accepts young patients, and, according to Carolyn, they take care to ensure children are never traumatized by

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## 46 • The Beehive



# Why So Many Families are Moving North to The Greater Prescott Area to Secure their Homesteads NOW.

By Tonni Riley -  
Land Specialist

There's no place in the whole Country with the unique Greater Prescott Area's all-encompassing dynamics. There's obviously a reason why it's continually rated in the “Top 10 Best Places to live in America”, and “Top 10 Best Retirement Communities in the Nation”!

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The Greater Prescott Area truly is a unique-find, unrivaled in the entire Western States. To sum up a description of this incredible- find community: “Norman Rockwell” meets “California Country-Chic” in a “Real Hometown Atmosphere”. There's no place quite like it and thus, you now understand why it's officially called “Everybody's Hometown” (and unofficially recognized, for those that aren't lucky enough to really live here as “Everybody's Hometown Dream”).

**WHY ACREAGE:** Most families today, especially the majority of our country's population that lives in larger, unsettling, congested-big cities yearn to “secure a small parcel of land/just a few acres we can call our own”. *They believe that no matter what crisis hits next, they can set up their own secure homestead and take care of their family under any conditions. After all, the ones that made it most comfortably through “The Great Depression” had their own acreage of land and water which enabled them to be completely self-reliant during especially hard times.*

So many families nowadays dream of their “Little Piece of Earth”, with just the right CC&R's, in the right area, with the right dynamics to move their family onto someday when the timing is right or needed in the future.

They know they need a good water supply/water rights, preferably a good producing well that they have primary control of and maximum rights of usage. They want to have the potential and rights to garden and even have some animals, if they choose to or need to.

**WHY WATER IS SO IMPORTANT:** I sat in a “behind-closed-doors” session with one of the most-respected Water Experts in the State of AZ, (an “Out-of-Towner”) not too long ago and he shared his passionate “Bullish” perspective of why to own acreage with water rights in the highest-yielding water areas in the GPA and why now. This gave me a unique glimpse and greater understanding and appreciation of just how rare and valuable our prime acreage with our incredible water supply really is in the Northern Greater Prescott Area. I walked out of that session realizing that there really isn't another community/area with our ample water supply and rights, with our incredible layers of dynamics in the entire Western States, from North to South. Everybody's looking for those perfect dynamics and they will continue to aggressively search until they find us.

**WHY NOW:** I believe the time is now to find “It” and get “It” while you still can. All market's progress is based on “Supply and Demand”. Yes, the Country, as a whole, is caught up in a “Real Estate Crisis” right now. Yes, Arizona, as a whole, has been hit as hard as any (especially our larger metropolitan areas). Yes, there is and will be a continued slow down in residential (already built) housing for a while. Yes, there is even a dip in prices in residential housing, as a whole, in AZ (Great for potential buyers). However, all areas, all types of inventory in Real Estate and all “Pieces of Dirt” are not created equal. The pure “Blank” parcel of “Dirt”, still ready to be able to put a family's personal vision of their “Dream Homestead” on the ground, when they're ready, is truly one of the most valuable and limited commodities available today.

There are but a few “that have an “Expert/Professional/ Bigger-Picture Perspective” of all that it takes to have just the right area, in the right location, with the right dynamics, with the right quantity of water supply, quality and rights. As a seasoned professional specializing in land, I'm here to tell you that the supply of “The Best-of-the-Best” acreage in the right areas of the Greater Prescott Area is very limited as a whole. In a handful of years, I believe the public will be looking back and saying “Remember when we 'could-have/should-have' bought acreage in the right water-abundant areas of this most prime community in the State of Arizona and the entire Western States.

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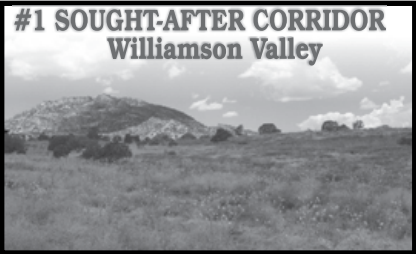
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## Valley bridal shop caters to the special needs of LDS brides & prom-goers

By Valerie Ipson  
The Beehive

Latter-day Saint brides have a simple, yet sacred standard when choosing a wedding dress: a gown that portrays beauty, elegance, and modesty. Arizona's Bridal Warehouse of Mesa has been helping LDS brides attain that standard for nearly seven years.

While offering a wide selection of wedding gowns and bridal party clothing to suit all tastes, they specialize in modest dresses, created by Heather Butler with her husband and business partner, Jim, exclusively for their store in Arizona and other stores in Utah and around the country. Hard-to-find modest prom dresses are also a key part of their collection.

Owners, Jim and Heather Butler, who now reside in Utah with their five children, opened the valley shop in 2001 after both graduated from BYU. Heather is able to work at home on designs, while Jim travels to Arizona several days a month for store business. The Butlers say they have a qualified and caring staff that takes care of the responsibility of the daily operations of the shop.

One of the ways that the Butlers keep in touch with fashion trends and styles is by selecting a fashion team of junior and senior Arizona girls who model in homecoming and prom fashion shows. The fashion team gives input on their favorite styles, fabrics, and colors for the designs Heather creates. Fashion team members also have the opportunity to get a free prom

dress. Sophomore or junior girls who are interested in being on next year's fashion team can apply by going to [www.arizonaprom.com](http://www.arizonaprom.com).

The Butlers say their business has grown as the demand for modest formalwear has grown. A warehouse in Utah now ships dresses to be sold at many shops throughout the country, as well as to an online store at [beautifullymodest.com](http://beautifullymodest.com).

At Arizona's Bridal Warehouse, LDS young women will find a wide array of fashionable designs and colors to suit any prom style, and, perhaps most importantly, says Brother Butler, because their clothing is in keeping with their standards of dress, they'll feel happy and comfortable throughout the evening of this special event.

"This is a fun business to be in," says Jim. "We have a part in one of the happiest days of a girl's life. Whether it is prom or her wedding day, our goal is for her feel absolutely stunning and beautiful while being modest at the same time."

Visit Arizona's Bridal Warehouse at 2450 W. Broadway Rd., Suite 120, Mesa, AZ (north of US 60 between the 101 and Dobson), where they are open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Catalogs can be requested online at [www.arizonabridal.com](http://www.arizonabridal.com). For more information, contact the store at 480-517-0027.



Photo courtesy of Jim Butler

Jim and Heather Butler design beautiful wedding and prom dresses that meet the modest standards of LDS young women and make them available online and through their valley store, Arizona's Bridal Warehouse.





## IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

### The Music Tryout

I love having music in our home. Music is uplifting, comforting, soothing to the soul, and inspires us to greatness and grandeur. Upstanding music invites genuine goodness and wonderment into our lives, dispelling the every day frustrations and difficulties that inevitably come our way in this journey we call life.

My two oldest sons, aged 14 and 12, are in the midst of musically preparing themselves and their band instruments for a grueling "tryout" to become a coveted member of an elite regional band comprised of the top-talented, young musicians in the area. Consequently, they are both meticulously practicing a myriad of scales and etudes which permeate our home with the richness of music on a regular basis.

The oldest plays the Alto Saxophone and is spending numerous lengthy hours perfecting his fingerings and breathing

patterns as he strives to reach his goal of surviving the cut to earn a place in the prestigious band.

My younger son plays the French Horn and is spending several arduous hours as well banging out the rhythms of his compositions on the piano, trying to get familiar with the different tunes. He spends most of his time buzzing on his mouthpiece, hoping to perfect his embouchure, a skill that differentiates between an excellent brass student and a mediocre one.

It is a joy for me to hear them practicing so diligently and rigorously, taking one step at a time in their musical journey to make sure their notes and rhythms are correct. They are patient in their learning, knowing that speed and accuracy will come as they become more familiar with the melodies and syncopation as they progress, step by step, each day.

As their mother, all I can do to help

them in their quest is to encourage their progress and praise their success. I hope that their hard work and efforts pay off and that each will earn that desirable spot in their respective bands, but the journey towards the tryout is in and of itself a process for all of us to be proud of.

In this existence, it seems that each one of us is somewhat like my two musical sons. We are all aspiring to be the best musicians we can be at the "instruments" of life we have chosen. We are each meticulously practicing our daily etudes of family life, work, community, stewardships and day to day responsibilities.

We are all rehearsing for our own upcoming "tryout," patiently learning and growing in our musical scores, taking daily steps towards perfecting our own melodious symphonic masterpieces.

We are striving to earn that coveted spot in the top band of life, reaching for success, happiness, stability, and lasting relationships. We have to meticulously practice our fingerings of hard work and dedication, preparing regularly for success in improving our tone and quality of sound as we struggle through life's difficult musical score.

Each day we must practice our scales of servitude and compassion, bringing a musicality and rhythm to our lives that

is incomparable. We must continue to strive at getting our music notes correct through understanding and forgiveness, while persisting towards perfecting our dynamics of kindness and concern, something that takes endurance, patience, and years of fortitude.

In the end, when we reach our final tryout, we hope to be prepared to play our instruments to the best of our abilities, bringing a flow of rich harmony to our own lifetime of music. We hope to play our songs with the vigor, vitality and heartfelt feelings that we have so meticulously rehearsed over the course of our lives, striving to impress the adjudicator with our talent and prowess at the aesthetic and robust tones of our melodies.

I'm sure that my two sons will excel at their musical tryouts because they have painstakingly prepared themselves for the thrill of sweet success. We will also taste success if we are equipped for our own life's tryout.

We only get one shot at it, so we must prepare tirelessly, creating a life symphony of intertwining moments. We must make our musical journey one to be proud of, one that will propel us into that top band reserved for only the most gifted of musicians. Who knows, we might even make first chair!

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# Celebrations



Amanda Castro & Marcello Ruiz  
Married March 29, 2008  
Photo by Ginnie Grant, Arizona Bridal Photography



Breanna Rutherford & Andrew Smithson  
Married February 28, 2008  
Photo by Tami Webb Photography



Susie Updike & Shawn Shepherd  
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Rachel Ellison & Clark Tobler  
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## Arizona Virtual Academy offers “virtual education” for kindergarten through high school

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

**M**any families in Arizona have found “virtual education” through Arizona Virtual Academy provides a “best-of-all-worlds” option for educating their children.

Julie Frein, who serves as AZVA’s Head of School, says the programs at AZVA are a perfect fit for many families.

“Families choose AZVA for a variety of reasons,” she says. “Perhaps their children are not being challenged enough, so they look to AZVA for acceleration.”

“Some families have children with unusual schedules, like competitive athletes; whereas, other students with chronic illnesses cannot be around children in the traditional day-to-day setting; and some may have social concerns,” Julie says.

She adds that, whatever the circumstances, parents are drawn by the opportunity AZVA afford them to take part in their children’s education.

“Many parents really want to be involved and see what’s going on,” she says, explaining that while, in some schools, “Parents are pushed out of the classroom, AZVA creates a partnership between parents and teachers.”

She adds AZVA is a good fit for “parents who have considered schooling from home but are not sure how to even get started.”

At the core of AZVA’s success is its solid curriculum, provided by K12, a leader in standards-based curriculum for virtual schools.

“We fill a need in education,” says



Photo by Jena Kugel

Arizona Virtual Academy (AZVA) offers an online education format as well as frequent outings and events for students like (back row, l-r) Cassie Young, Mychaella Mosher, Mercy Greth, Rachael Francher, and (front row, l-r) Wynne Farley and Jacqueline Farley who, with their teacher, Jena Kugel, participated in the recent Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Jeff Kwitowsky of the K12 corporate offices. “K12 uses the power of technology to deliver a high quality learning program and enables students to master important concepts in an exciting way while developing a love for learning.”

AZVA, which began operation in 2003, is Arizona’s only K12-certified school and is the largest virtual school in

Arizona, this year serving 3,600 students in grades K through 11.

Students enrolled in AZVA work with an experienced teacher who reviews assignments, gives direction, holds one or two scheduled conferences each month, and is available at any time for students or parents to ask questions.

Students are supplied with the materials to facilitate their success. This includes a computer and printer on loan, an Internet reimbursement, and high quality textbook and resource materials. Placement tests in writing, reading and math ensure an appropriate starting place. From there, students advance at their own pace and are required to show 80 percent mastery of a concept before moving on to the next level.

AZVA accommodates many different learning styles and has a full-service special education program and Title I math and reading services for students who qualify.

In addition, multiple times every month, AZVA holds outings and events in various locations across the state, providing opportunities for students to get together in social and educational settings.

For more information on K12 schools, visit k12.com/az or call 1-866-339-4949. To visit the Arizona Virtual Academy’s Web site, log onto www.azva.org

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# Hannah Marsh named Arizona's Junior Miss 2008

By Cecily Markland  
The Beehive

Arizona's Junior Miss for 2008 is Hannah Marsh, 18, of the Thayer Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake.

Junior Miss is a scholarship program designed to promote education, confidence and leadership and to recognize achievements in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

In this year's program, Hannah competed against 24 other young women representing high school seniors from across Arizona.

In addition to capturing the first place medallion, Hannah won the overall talent competition and earned honors in several other categories as well, including taking first place in the interview competition and in overall self expression. She also finished as runner up in both the scholastic and fitness categories. Hannah took home a total of \$4,000 in cash scholarships and will travel to Mobile, Alabama in June to compete with representatives from the other 49 states in the 51<sup>st</sup> America's Junior Miss National Finals.

Hannah says her success in the competition was among several surprises along the way. "For me, I didn't go into it as a 'win-it' type thing," she says, and adds, "It wasn't what I expected at all. It was not what you picture as the typical pageant. All the girls got along so well and tried their best to encourage each other."

Hannah says, for her, some of the most prized "wins" from the experience are the friendships she gained and skills she developed.

"It helped me build confidence and I had a great time," she says. "I'd definitely encourage other girls to do it. It's so worth your time and such a great experience."

A senior at Mountain View High School, Hannah is the daughter of Allen and Karen Marsh and is the second of their five children.

An accomplished pianist, Hannah won in a four-way tie for the overall talent award. She played "Piano Fantasy," by William Joseph.

"It's a piece my teacher and I picked out and I really like that song. When you enjoy the song it's so much easier to prepare and play," she says.

In addition to studying piano since she was seven, Hannah has participated in school choirs for many years. She was on the track team and the cheer

team for two years and served on Student Council as the Senior Vice President this year.

Hannah also has been active in her ward, serving as counselor and president of her Laurel class.

She says, in the Marsh home, church attendance was expected.

"We don't miss meetings," she says. "That's how it was growing up, but I've gained a testimony of my own and now I go because I want to. I love it and don't want to miss."

Hannah says what she has learned from being in Young Women's has helped in all aspects of her life and particularly in her participation in Jr. Miss.

"The Church has taught us to pursue talents and share them with others," she says. "In Young Women's you learn goal setting. You learn different skills and just being able to share helps."

She says she has also found a source of strength and support in her mother.

"Mom was a big help through the competition. She always encouraged me



Photo by Steve Nissle.

Hannah Marsh, of the Thayer Park Ward in the Mesa Mountain View Stake, was recently named Arizona's Junior Miss for 2008 and will compete in the National Finals in June.

and made sure I was at my best."

Hannah plans to attend BYU in Provo in the fall, where she will study physical therapy.



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